





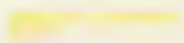
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# STARK COUNTY ILLINOIS AND ITS PEOPLE

A RECORD OF SETTLEMENT, ORGANIZATION,  
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

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J. KNOX HALL  
SUPERVISING EDITOR

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME I

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1916



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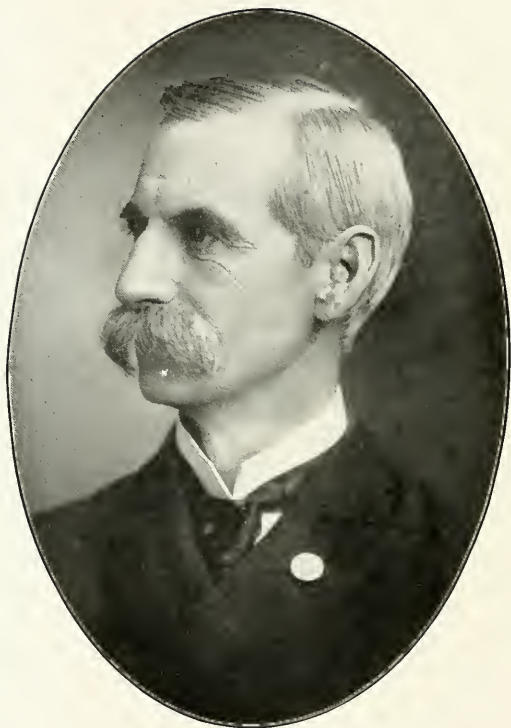
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J. KNOX HALL

# History of Stark County

## CHAPTER I

### PHYSICAL FEATURES, GEOLOGY, ETC.

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—SURFACE—RIVERS AND CREEKS—GENERAL CHARACTER—NATIVE VEGETATION—ANIMALS AND BIRDS—GEOLOGY—THE COAL MEASURES—SECTIONS OF MINING SHAFTS—EXTENT OF THE COAL DEPOSITS—BUILDING STONE—THE GLACIAL EPOCH—HOW STARK COUNTY WAS FORMED—CHARACTER OF THE GLACIAL DRIFT—THE WATER SUPPLY.

Stark County is situated northwest of the center of the state, its western line being about fifty miles from the Mississippi River at Keithsburg, and its northern boundary is eighty-seven miles from the Wisconsin state line. On the north it is bounded by the counties of Bureau and Henry; on the east by Bureau and Marshall counties; on the south by Peoria County, and on the west by Knox and Henry counties. It embraces Congressional townships 12 and 13 north, Range 5 east; townships 12, 13 and 14, Range 6; and townships 12, 13 and 14, Range 7. As each of these townships contains thirty-six square miles, the total area of the county is 288 square miles.

The general surface of the county is slightly undulating, or rolling, except in the vicinity of the Spoon River and at some places along Indian Creek, where it is more or less broken. More than nine-tenths of the 184,320 acres responds easily to cultivation, and the remaining tenth is by no means waste land, though its cultivation is attended by greater effort. Natural drainage is afforded by the Spoon River, Indian and Walnut creeks, Cooper's Defeat, Camping Run, Jack Creek, Mud Run, Jug Run and a number of smaller streams.

The Spoon River is composed of two branches. The East Fork rises in Bureau County and the West Fork in Henry County, the former flowing in a southwesterly direction and the latter toward the

southeast until they form a junction in the northeastern part of Toulon Township, Stark County. From this point the main stream follows a general southerly course through the townships of Toulon and Essex. It finally empties into the Illinois River near the town of Havana, Mason County. The Indian name of this stream was "Maquon," which in the Pottawatomie language means "Feather," certainly a more euphonious name than the one adopted by the white people.

Indian Creek, the second largest stream in the county, has its source not far from the town of Galva, Henry County. It enters Stark County about two miles west of the northeast corner of Goshen Township, and follows a general southeasterly direction until it empties into the Spoon River a short distance above the old settlement known as Slackwater. This creek takes its name from the fact that when the first white men came to what is now Stark County they found a few Indians living along its banks.

Walnut Creek, so named because of the number of walnut trees that once grew along its course, rises near the little village of Nekoma, Henry County, whence it flows southeast until it enters Stark County a little south of Lafayette. Its course is then almost south through Goshen and West Jersey townships until it mingles its waters with those of the Spoon River in the northwestern part of Peoria County.

The creek known as Cooper's Defeat begins in the southern part of Bureau County. Its general course is westward and it finally empties into the East Fork of the Spoon River in the southwest corner of Osceola Township. About three miles above its mouth it bends southward into Penn Township, where William and Jeremiah Cooper were frozen to death in the severe snow storm just before Christmas in 1831, from which incident the creek takes its name. A further account of this event will be found in another chapter.

Some seven or eight miles south of Cooper's Defeat and flowing in the same general direction is Camping Run, or Camp Creek, as it is sometimes called. It has its beginning a short distance east of Camp Grove, in Marshall County, and joins the Spoon River about a mile and a half west of the little village of Stark. Before the advent of the railroad emigrant parties frequently encamped in the grove near the headwaters of the creek, from which custom it took its name.

Still farther south is Mud (or Muddy) Run, which rises in Marshall County and flows westward through the southern part of Valley Township until it empties into Camping Run about half a mile from the mouth of the latter. Its name indicates its character.

Jack Creek rises near the western boundary of Elmira Township and flows in a southeasterly direction through that township and Toulon, finally falling into the Spoon River a short distance below the village of Modena.

Jug Run parallels the course of Jack Creek about two miles farther south. It is a short stream and is all in Toulon Township. Of the smaller streams the most important are Fitch Creek, which rises in Knox County and touches the northwest corner of Goshen Township; and Silver Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Spoon River in the northeast corner of Osceola Township.

#### GENERAL CHARACTER

Originally the greater part of the county was prairie, with groves of timber interspersed in such a way that none of the prairies consisted of more than a few square miles. The largest prairie was between Cooper's Defeat Creek and Camping Run, in what are now Penn and Valley townships. The absence of timber upon the tracts of land called prairies has been the subject of considerable speculation among geologists, geographers and botanists as to the cause of the vast, treeless plains in the Middle West and the smaller tracts of similar character in other parts of the country. It is a notable fact that no prairies existed east of the State of Ohio. Professor Whitney, who made some observations on this subject, says:

"The cause of the absence of trees on the prairies is due to the physical character of the soil, and especially its exceeding fineness, which is prejudicial to the growth of anything but a superficial vegetation, the smallness of the particles of the soil being an insuperable barrier to the necessary access of air to the roots of deeply-rooted vegetation, such as trees. Wherever, in the midst of the extraordinary fine soil of the prairies, coarse and gravelly patches exist, there dense forests occur."

Dr. Charles A. White, who held the office of state geologist in Iowa for several years in the early '70s, made a somewhat extended investigation of the subject and reached a different conclusion from that of Professor Whitney. After calling attention to the fact that prairies are found resting upon all kinds of bed rock, from the Azoic to the Cretaceous ages, and that all kinds of soil—alluvial, drift and lacustral, including sand, clay, gravel and loam—are frequently found upon the same prairie, he says:

"Thus, whatever the origin of the prairies might have been, we have

positive assurance that their present existence is not due to the influence of the climate, the character or composition of the soil, nor to the character of any underlying formations.

"There seems to be no good reason why we should regard the forests as any more natural or normal condition than are the prairies. Indeed it seems the more natural inference that the occupation of the surface has taken place by dispersion from original centers, and that they encroached upon the unoccupied surface until they were met and checked by the destructive power of fires. The prairies doubtless existed as such almost immediately after the close of the glacial epoch."

Doctor White's statement, that the prairies are not due to any character or composition of the soil, is borne out by the fact that in the towns that have been built up on the prairies, and in the artificial groves around many of the farm houses in the West, trees have grown with as much vigor as though the surface had once been covered by a growth of native timber. But, no matter how the prairies originated, the pioneers of Stark County found upon them a soil—a dark loam in structure—that when properly drained and rightly cultivated is unsurpassed in productiveness.

Along the streams the first settlers found belts of timber, varying in width, the principal varieties of native trees being oak, maple, linden, hickory, black walnut and elm. Smaller and less important species were the dogwood, hawthorn, red bud, wild plum, crab apple, etc. The soil of the timbered lands is lighter in color than that of the prairies and not so deep, but with the right kind of care and cultivation it can be made to produce excellent crops.

Before the plow and the spade of civilization disturbed the native vegetation of the prairies the land was covered with flowers of various hues. First in importance was probably the tall plant known as "Queen of the prairie," which often grew to a height of six feet and bore at the top a large cluster of flowers resembling the blossoms of the peach tree. Then there were the white, yellow and purple lady slipper, the golden rod, the buttercup, the May apple, the blue bell, the forget-me-not, several members of the phlox family, the best known of which was the modest little flower known as the sweet william, and numerous others, all of which have disappeared except in very rare instances.

Along the banks of the streams and around the ponds could be found three or four species of water lilies, the cowslip, the cat tail and blue flags, various kinds of mint, etc. In the woods the wild mari-



gold, the bell flower, the yellow honey suckle, anemones, the clematis, the trumpet creeper and the modest violet grew abundantly, and some of these flowers are still to be seen in a few secluded places, where the ravages of civilized man have not yet encompassed their destruction.

In the early days, before the physician and the drug store had become established institutions, many herbs were gathered and preserved for their medicinal properties. Foremost among these were the horehound, boneset, pennyroyal, catnip, wild garlic, barberry, yellow water dock, burdock, wild senna, gentian, lobelia, and a species of wormwood. A few straggling specimens of these plants may be seen, but where they once grew in profusion are now the cultivated fields of the thrifty husbandman.

#### ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Time was when the bison, or American buffalo, roamed in great herds over the prairies of Illinois. At several points along the Spoon River, within the limits of Stark County, large quantities of the bones of these animals have been found. It is supposed that these bone heaps are due to the buffaloes seeking shelter in the timber along the river from some violent storm, and that here the whole herd perished. What the storms failed to accomplish toward the extinguishment of the bison the rifle of the pioneer and the encroachments of civilization did accomplish, and they have gone, never to return.

The Virginia deer was also once plentiful in what is now Stark County and venison formed a considerable portion of the meat supply for the family of the early settler. Occasionally a black bear could be seen prowling about some frontier settlement, but when some pioneer "drew a bead" on him with the long barreled rifle his tenure of life was limited to a few seconds at most, and then the family would feast on bear meat for a short season.

Although not so plentiful as the buffalo or the deer, the elk was one of the native animals of the Spoon River Valley. The beaver, otter, mink, raccoon and muskrat were the best known of the fur-bearing animals and in early days were trapped in large numbers for the revenue that their skins would bring. The beaver and otter have joined the buffalo, bear, deer and elk in oblivion and only on rare occasions are any of the others to be seen.

Among the predatory animals, or beasts of prey, the prairie and timber wolf, the lynx, the panther, the catamount, the wildcat, the gray and red fox were those most common. Of these the wolves were

probably the most troublesome. In March, 1844, the county commissioners offered a bounty of \$1 for the scalp of each big wolf and 50 cents for that of each prairie wolf "six months old killed in Stark County during the year 1844." As late as December 18, 1884, a large wolf was killed a few miles west of Toulon, and on May 23, 1885, the county clerk paid E. H. Bates, of Osecola, \$24 on fourteen young wolf scalps. There are still living in the county persons who can remember how, when they were children, they were wont to cuddle more closely together in their beds as the mournful howl of some wolf, engaged upon his nightly foraging expedition, came to their ears in the lonely cabin on the frontier.

Other wild animals that were common in the early days were the Maryland marmot—commonly called the woodchuck or ground hog—the rabbit, which is still found in considerable numbers, several species of squirrels, the skunk, the opossum, the weasel and a few others. The gray squirrel, the striped and spotted prairie squirrel have disappeared and the other varieties are found only in limited numbers compared with former years.

In October, 1867, Robert Church killed an American eagle near the bridge over Indian Creek on the road leading from Toulon to Lafayette. The bird was a magnificent specimen, measuring seven feet from tip to tip of its wings. So far as can be learned this was the last eagle killed in the county, where the bald eagle was once quite common and occasionally the golden eagle could be seen. Closely allied to the eagle in habits, but much smaller, are the hawks, several species of which were once quite numerous in Stark County. Those best known were the pigeon hawk, the sparrow hawk, Cooper's, the sharp-shinned, the red-tailed and the swallow-tailed hawks, while the fish hawk, the red shouldered hawk and the marsh hawk were more rare.

Of the owls, the most common was the ordinary screech owl. Next was the barred or barn owl. The long and short eared, the great horned owl and the snowy owl were to be seen in the smaller numbers, the last named being rather rare.

Game birds, or birds used for food, were abundant. The wild turkey, several species of wild ducks, the wild goose, the loon and the gull were the largest of such fowl, though some of the smaller varieties made up in numbers what they lacked in size. The most familiar of this class were the prairie chicken and some other members of the grouse family, the quail, the snipe, of which there were several kinds, the plover, and last, but not least in importance, the passenger pigeon. Prior to 1875 great flocks of wild pigeons numbering thousands of

birds would pass over the county during the migratory seasons. At night they would pause to roost in some forest and would perch upon the limbs of the trees in such numbers that often branches several inches in diameter would give way under the weight. Those were red-letter days for the sportsman and the birds were killed by hundreds, merely for the sport of the killing. In the early '70s the size of the flocks began to diminish and a few years later the passenger pigeon disappeared altogether. The question has been asked many times where they went or what became of them, as they have not been heard from anywhere. Their disappearance is still shrouded in mystery.

Other birds once seen here in considerable numbers that are now entirely extinct or exceedingly rare were the turkey buzzard, the Carolina parrot, the whippoorwill, the cuckoo, the crane, the heron, the common crow, the turtle dove and quite a number of song birds, such as the thrush, the finch family, several species of warblers, the oriole, etc. Then there were the swallows, of which there were several kinds, the hunting, the little wren, the titmouse, the chickadee, the native sparrows, the red throated humming bird, the meadow lark, the nuthatch, the fly catcher, the prairie skylark, the pewee, the blue bird and some others that have entirely disappeared or are extremely rare. The ax, the plow and the scythe destroyed many of their accustomed haunts and drove them to seek other quarters, and the pugnacious, worthless English sparrow has added to the destructive work of man in driving out many of the native birds. The woodpecker, the black bird and the ubiquitous blue jay are still seen in the county, but in smaller numbers than formerly, and on rare occasions some of the other species mentioned above are to be met with, as though they had returned to mourn over the scenes of their by-gone happiness. It is to be regretted that greater and timely protection was not given to the song birds and insect-eating varieties, which could have done so much toward adding to the cheerfulness of the human family and the protection of the farmers' crops.

#### GEOLOGY

Although America is called the New World, geologists believe that it is older than any of the continents of the Eastern Hemisphere. Professor Agassiz says: "Here was the first dry land lifted out of the waters; here the first shores were washed by the ocean that enveloped all the earth besides; and while Europe was represented only by islands rising here and there above the sea, America already

stretched in one unbroken line of dry land from Nova Scotia to the far West."

It is not within the province of a history such as this to discuss the methods by which geologists reached this conclusion, but other eminent authorities, as well known in scientific circles as Professor Agassiz, are inclined to favor the same theory regarding the age of the continent upon which we live. If their hypothesis be correct, Stark County may have been the home of the creatures of the reptilian type belonging to the Jura-Trias and Cretaceous eras, while the so-called Old World was still under water.

The first official geological survey of the conditions existing in Stark County was made by H. A. Green, under the auspices of the state geological survey, and published in the report for 1870. Mr. Green found in his investigations that all the stratified rocks of the county belong to the Coal Measures, including all the lower portion of the series from coal No. 7 to coal No. 2, inclusive. Coal No. 7 was observed in only a few places, the most notable of which was in section 16, township 14, range 7, where S. C. Francis was engaged in operating a mine near the east fork of the Spoon River. A section of the shaft at this mine, as given by Mr. Green, shows the following formation:

	Ft.	In.
Yellow clay .....	2	
Red sand .....	2	
Nodular limestone .....	2	4
Light colored clay .....	6	10
Clay shale .....	2	
Sandstone .....		8
Blue clay shale .....	4	2
Sandstone .....	1	4
Blue clay shale .....	8	
Dark clay shale .....	5	8
Coal .....		2
Blue clay shale .....	12	
Impure limestone .....		3
Clay shale .....	8	
Impure limestone .....		2
Blue clay shale .....	1	4
Dark clay shale .....	3	
Coal .....	2	7
Depth of shaft .....	62	6

Concerning the product of this mine and the coal deposits in the vicinity, Mr. Green says: "This coal appears to occupy the position of coal No. 7, and probably belongs to that seam. The coal worked at the Bradford shaft, which is but a short distance from here, in section 21, is thought to be some thirty or forty feet below, and is probably No. 6."

With regard to the coal deposits in general his report says: "Stark County has an abundant supply of coal, which is at present derived mainly from coal No. 6. It crops out along the West Fork in Elmira Township, along the Spoon River in Toulon, at intervals for about twenty miles, and can probably be found and worked along the streams and their tributaries for the entire distance. This coal varies in thickness from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 feet, seldom reaching the extreme, but averaging from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 feet. Immense quantities of coal have been taken from this seam at its outcrops along the different streams. In Osceola Township one shaft has been sunk near the East Fork, and several others are partially completed. Shafts have also been sunk at Modena, near Wyoming, in Toulon Township and at Cox's Mill in Essex Township."

That was written in 1870. Since then several new developments have been made in the mining industry. Coal No. 6 is the principal seam worked in the county. It first appears in the bluffs along the West Fork, in the southeast part of section 3, township 14, range 6. From that point to the southeast quarter of section 16, in the same township and range, it has been worked at intervals along the west side of the stream. In section 16 a number of openings have been made and considerable quantities of coal have been taken out. Here the coal crops out of the bluff, some ten or fifteen feet above the level of the creek. The seam runs from four to five feet thick, with a clay parting of about two inches near the middle. No. 6 seam is also worked at what is known as the Bradford shaft, located on the east side of the East Fork in section 28, township 14, range 7. The shaft here shows as follows:

	Ft.	In.
Yellow clay . . . . .	3	
Limestone . . . . .	4	
Light colored clay . . . . .	4	6
Light colored clay shale . . . . .	8	4
Limestone . . . . .	2	4
Clay shale . . . . .	9	10
Coal . . . . .		2

Soft black slate (fossiliferous) .....	4	
Clay .....	4	5
Sandstone .....	22	2
Clay shale .....	6	
Limestone .....	4	
Light colored clay shale.....	6	
Green clay shale.....	2	4
Dark clay shale.....	3	2
Impure limestone .....	1	6
Dark clay shale.....	2	6
Coal (with 3-inch clay parting) .....	4	
<hr/>		<hr/>
Depth of shaft.....	88	7

At Modena the vein ranges from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet in thickness and is rarely more than thirty feet below the surface. Coal has also been noted in the bed of Jack Creek, in section 4, township 13, range 6, where some of the deposits have been worked a little. In sections 2, 11 and 12, of the same township and range, a short distance south of Modena, the coal crops out along the bluff from eight to ten feet above the bed of the creek and several mines were in operation in this part of the county at the time of Mr. Green's survey.

According to Green, coal No. 4 is found at only one place in the county, viz: in section 19, township 12, range 5, near Walnut Creek, about two miles southwest of the Village of West Jersey. Here he found a vein of coal  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet in thickness, below which was a layer of impure cannel coal, varying from six to ten inches in thickness and containing the fossil remains of plants and fishes. The vein of No. 4 coal at this point is only about fifteen feet below the surface. Further mention of the coal deposits and their development will be found in the chapter on Finance and Industry.

#### BUILDING STONE

When Mr. Green visited the county in his geological research in 1870, he found only a small quantity of building stone of value. The best deposit of limestone worked at that time was in the quarries in sections 21-22, township 14, range 7, a short distance northwest of Bradford. This he pronounced the largest bed exposed anywhere in the county, being from six to twelve feet thick, but in thin ledges,

none of which was over six inches thick. The stone from this quarry is of a light drab color, compact and of even texture, moderately hard and stands exposure to the weather. It can be burned into a lime suitable for masonry, but too dark in color to be used for plastering.

Near the Spoon River, in section 14, township 12, range 6, Mr. Green found a deposit of sandstone which he considered the best in the county. About three miles west of this, in section 17 and near Indian Creek, he found another sandstone deposit, which furnishes a fair quality of building material. An old house near the quarry, constructed of this stone, shows that the weather has but little effect upon it after years of exposure. Another bed of sandstone is in section 20, township 12, range 5, near Walnut Creek; a soft sandstone exists in considerable quantities in section 16, township 14, range 6, and a better quality is found in section 13, township 13, range 6, but neither of these deposits has been worked to any extent. The thick vein of sandstone (22 feet 6 inches) in the Bradford coal mine could be used for building purposes, but the fact that it lies from thirty-five to forty feet below the surface has prevented its development.

#### THE GLACIAL EPOCH

Far back in the geologic past, while the coal beds of Stark County were in process of formation, the surface was probably one vast marsh covered with tangled masses of vegetation and inhabited only by reptiles. About the close of the Tertiary period came the Pleistocene or "Ice Age," during which the upper Mississippi Valley was covered by one vast sheet of ice called a glacier. This glacier extended from the country about the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains on the west, and southward to about the latitude of St. Louis. It was formed in the northern part of the continent by successive falls of snow, each of which added to the weight of the great mass below until it was compressed into one solid body of ice. After many years of the formative process, a change in the temperature started the glacier to moving slowly southward, carrying with it great bowlders, clays, soils, etc., to be deposited upon the bed rocks of a region far distant from that where they were first placed by the hand of nature. As the huge mass moved slowly along, the bowlders and other hard substances at the bottom of the glacier left scratches (called striae by the geologists) upon the bed rocks, and from these markings the course of the glacier can be determined with a fair degree of accuracy. Examinations of the striae at various places in the Mississippi Valley,



where the bed rock is exposed, show that the general direction followed by the great central glacier was toward the southeast.

As the ice melted in the warmer latitude, the materials carried by the glacier were deposited upon the bed rock in the form of drift, composed of till, loess and alluvium. It was through this method that the great swamp above mentioned underwent a change. At the close of the Pleistocene the earth's surface, over which the glacier had passed, was void of either animal or vegetable life. In time the action of the rain and wind gradually leveled the surface, the heat from the sun warmed it, and life in the most primitive forms made its appearance.

For the rich heritage of soil in Stark County, the region is indebted to the great glacier that once overflowed the country. In its slow march it ground up the rocks over which it passed, mixed the fresh rock flour with the granites of British America and Northern Minnesota, with the pulverized limestones and shales of the more southern latitudes, and deposited these materials upon the rocks of earlier geologic periods. Everywhere the soil is the product of rock disintegration. In Stark County the glacial drift is from twenty to sixty feet deep, giving it one of the most fertile soils in the state.

It was through the action of the glacier that the surface of Northern Illinois was formed. At the edge of the glacier, as it moved forward, it left a ridge called a "lateral moraine." Where two glacial bodies came together a larger ridge running parallel to the striae was formed and is called a "median moraine." At the terminus of the ice sheet, where all the remaining solid materials carried by the glacier were deposited, the ridge thus formed is known as the "terminal moraine." As no evidences of a moraine of any kind have been noticed in Stark County, it is almost certain that this portion of Illinois was in the heart of the glacier, an indication that is further borne out by the almost uniform thickness of the drift when compared with those parts of the country where the moraines are known to exist.

#### CHARACTER OF THE DRIFT

At the bottom of the glacial deposits lies the till—called by some geologists the lower till—composed of a blue clay or a dark shale, charged with bowlders and sometimes mixed with sand. This till is seen in the strata immediately overlying the Coal Measures, as shown by the sections of shafts given in the preceding pages.

The loess is a fine ash-colored silt, or a porous clay, rich in carbon-



ate of lime. This substance was deposited very irregularly and so far as known no deposits of it have been found in Stark County.

Above the loess comes the alluvium or soil, which is made up of the lighter materials carried by the glacier, to which has been added a large volume of decayed vegetable matter that has accumulated since the close of the glacial epoch. As this portion of the drift constitutes the surface, and is seen everywhere in Stark County, it is too well known to require further description.

The bowlders commonly called "nigger heads" that may be seen in greater or less numbers in all parts of the state, are unquestionably of glacial origin. They are of a different texture from the bed rock, a fact that sustains the theory that they are foreign to this part of the country. Most of them are found below the surface, but those left upon the higher portions of the glacial deposits have remained where they can still be seen, the lighter materials of the alluvium having been deposited around them without disturbing their resting places.

#### THE WATER SUPPLY

There are but comparatively few natural springs in the county. Most of the wells derive their supply of water from veins in the drift, only a few of them penetrating to the Coal Measures. The deepest well in the county is the one at Toulon, from which the town's water supply is taken. It is over fourteen hundred feet in depth. A further description of it, as well as of the wells at Wyoming and Bradford, will be found in connection with the history of those towns.

## CHAPTER II

### ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS

MOUND BUILDERS—FIRST NOTICE OF MOUNDS IN THE UNITED STATES—CHARACTER AND STRUCTURE OF THE MOUNDS—EARLY INVESTIGATIONS AND THEORIES—WORK OF THE BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY—DISTRICTS IN THE UNITED STATES—WHO WERE THE MOUND BUILDERS—MORE THEORIES—RELICS IN THE COUNTY OF STARK—ADAMS AND SHALLENBERGER'S WORK.

For nearly a century and a half after the first white settlements were made along the Atlantic coast, in what is now the United States, the general belief was that the Indian tribes found here by the first Europeans were the original inhabitants of the country. Then evidences were discovered in the interior of the continent that led archaeologists to believe that the great valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers had once been occupied by a peculiar race of people entirely separate and distinct from the Indian. These evidences were found in the numerous mounds and earthworks, fragments of pottery, stone implements, weapons, etc. A report issued by the United States Bureau of Ethnology says:

"During a period beginning some time after the close of the Ice Age and ending with the coming of the white man—or only a few years before—the central part of North America was inhabited by a people who had emerged to some extent from the darkness of savagery, had acquired certain domestic arts, and practiced some well defined lines of industry. The location and boundaries inhabited by them are fairly well marked by the mounds and earthworks they erected."

The center of this ancient civilization—if such it may be called—seems to have been in the present State of Ohio, where the mounds and relics are more numerous than in any other part of the country, though Illinois was well within the confines of the domain once occupied by this peculiar race, to which the name of "Mound Builders" has been given by archaeologists, and various theories have been ad-

vanced concerning their origin, identity and the manner in which they became extinct.

It may be interesting to the reader to know something of these theories regarding the Mound Builders, as well as something of the character of the works they constructed. Most of the mounds are of conical form, varying in height, and when opened they have usually been found to contain human skeletons. For this reason they have been designated by archaeologists as burial mounds. Next to the burial mound comes the truncated pyramid—that is, a mound square or rectangular at the base and flattened at the top. Mounds of this class are nearly always higher than the highest of the burial mounds and upon the top of several such mounds charcoal has been found. The greater height and the charcoal gave rise to the theory that they were used as lookout or signal stations, upon the top of which signal fires had once been lighted.

In some sections of the country can still be seen well defined lines of earthworks, sometimes in the form of a square, but more often of oval or circular shape, bearing every indication of having been erected as places of defense against hostile invaders. Still another class of works, less numerous and widely separated, consists of one large mound surrounded by an embankment, outside of which are a number of smaller mounds. In such groups the smaller mounds are nearly always devoid of human bones or other relics, and even the larger mound within the embankment yields but few relics. The absence of skeletons, implements, weapons, etc., and the arrangement of the mounds in works of this nature have led antiquarians to form the theory that they were centers of sacrifice or religious ceremonies of some character.

Not for years after the mounds were first noticed was any systematic investigation of the origin made. The earliest persons to examine the mounds were Squier and Davis, who, about 1850, published a work entitled "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley." Between the years 1845 and 1848 these two archaeologists, working together, explored over two hundred mounds and other earthworks, the description of which was published by the Smithsonian Institution. Following them came Baldwin, McLean and a number of others, practically all of whom held to the theory that the Mound Builders belonged to a separate and distinct race and that many of the relics were of great antiquity.

Some of these early writers on the subject took the view that the Mound Builders first established their civilization in the Ohio Valley,

from which region they gradually moved toward the southwest into Mexico and Central America, where the white man found their descendants in the Aztec Indians. Others, with arguments equally plausible, contended that the people who left these interesting relics originated in the South and slowly made their way northward to the country about the Great Lakes, where they were met and driven back by hostile tribes. Upon only one phase of the subject were these early authors in accord, and that was that the Mound Builders constituted a very ancient and extinct race. This theory was sustained by the fact that the Indian tribes with whom the first white men came in contact had no traditions relating to the mounds or the people who built them, while the claim of great antiquity was supported by the great trees, often several feet in diameter, that were found growing upon the mounds and earthworks.

Shortly after the United States Bureau of Ethnology was established it undertook the work of making an exhaustive and scientific investigation of the mounds and other relics left by the Mound Builders. Cyrus Thomas, who had charge of this branch of ethnological research, in his analysis and compilation of the information collected, has divided the region once inhabited by the Mound Builders into eight districts, each of which is marked by certain features not common to the others. In making this division Mr. Thomas evidently did not adhere to any of the theories advanced as to the origin or first location of the ancient people, as he begins in the northwestern part of the country and proceeds toward the south and east. His districts are as follows:

1. The Dakota District, which includes North and South Dakota, Minnesota, the northwest corner of Iowa and the State of Wisconsin. In this district the chief objects of interest to the archaeologists are the beautiful effigy mounds, constructed in the form of some bird or animal. Wisconsin is especially rich in mounds of this class. Near the Town of Prairieville is a mound resembling a turtle, fifty-six feet in length, and not far from the Town of Blue Mounds is a mound 120 feet long representing a man lying on his back. Some writers are of the opinion that the effigy mounds were made to represent the totem of some tribe or clan, and others think they are the images of some living creature that was an object of veneration.

2. The Huron-Iroquois District takes its name from the country comprising the district, which was once inhabited by the Huron and Iroquois Indians. This district includes the lower peninsula of Michigan, the southern part of Canada, a strip across the northern part of

Ohio and the greater portion of the State of New York. Near Toledo and Sandusky, Ohio, a few well defined fortifications have been observed, but by far the greater part of the relics are the small burial mounds and the "hut rings," small circular embankments, which are supposed to have been the foundations of ancient dwellings.

3. The Illinois District embraces the middle and eastern portions of Iowa, Northeastern Missouri, Northern Illinois and the western half of Indiana. That part of Illinois lying within this district includes about two-thirds of the state. Stark County lies within this district, in which the burial mounds are quite numerous and a few fortifications have been found, but they are greatly inferior, both in size and the manner of construction, to those of the Ohio District. In the southern part of the district several mounds of the truncated pyramid variety have been found, the great mound near Cahokia being one of the finest examples of this class known to students of American archaeology.

4. The Ohio District takes in all of the State of Ohio, except the strip across the northern part, which is included in District No. 2, the eastern half of Indiana and the southwestern part of West Virginia. Here the Mound Builder evidently flourished in all his glory. Burial mounds are larger and more numerous than in any other part of the country, many of them having a diameter of one hundred feet or more and rising to the height of sixty or eighty feet. More than ten thousand mounds have been explored in the State of Ohio alone. The Grave Creek Mound, in West Virginia, is one of the largest lookout or signal mounds yet discovered. The earthworks of this district surpass those of all the others. The "Great Serpent," a fortification in the form of a snake, is situated on a bluff in Adams County, Ohio. It is nearly fourteen hundred feet long and is one of the best preserved and most perfect specimens of the Mound Builders' fortifications. Its site has recently been purchased by the state in order that the ancient fort may be kept intact. Near Anderson, Indiana, is a circular fortification, with a lookout mound inside the embankment. A peculiar feature of this work is a subterranean passage leading to the White River, some three hundred feet distant, indicating that the work had been constructed with a view to obtaining a supply of water in the event of a siege.

5. The Appalachian District takes its name from the mountains included within its borders. It embraces East Tennessee, the southwestern part of Virginia, Western North Carolina and Northern Georgia. Throughout this district abundant evidences have been

found to show that the inhabitants were in many respects different from those of the other districts. The mounds are differently constructed; stone graves are numerous; copper awls, needles, knives and other utensils have been found; tobacco pipes made of clay and baked, and some pipes carved from a peculiar kind of stone are among the relics found here.

6. The Tennessee District, which adjoins the Appalachian on the west, includes the southern third of Illinois, nearly all the State of Kentucky, a small portion of Northern Alabama, Middle and Western Tennessee and the central part of Georgia. The distinguishing feature of this district is its pottery, a long-necked water jar of graceful outline being especially abundant. Fragments of pottery indicated that they were part of vessels from three to four feet in diameter and capable of holding several gallons. Several forts have been noted, a few of which are connected with nearby streams by subterranean passages, and some of the mounds have yielded up stone images, believed by archaeologists to have been objects of worship.

7. The Arkansas District includes the State of Arkansas, the northern part of Louisiana and the southeast corner of Missouri. Burial mounds here are small and few in number. Village sites have been located by means of the hut rings and pottery has been found in abundance.

8. The Gulf District includes the country bordering on the Gulf of Mexico. In this district are a number of fine truncated pyramids, some of them built in terraces; skeletons buried in bark coffins have been unearthed and other skeletons have been found in caves; the entire district is rich in pottery, and a peculiarity of this region is the large number of polished stone implements and weapons of obsidian.

#### WHO WERE THE MOUND BUILDERS?

Going back to the theories regarding the origin and age of the Mound Builders, it is worthy of note that in more recent years archaeologists are inclined to doubt the idea of great antiquity, or that the Mound Builders differed materially in racial characteristics from the North American Indian. Those who have made extensive research among the mounds, or a careful and systematic study of the relics in connection with the work of the United States Bureau of Ethnology, are practically a unit in the belief that the Indians found here by the first white men are the descendants of the Mound Builders, but that the traditions of the latter have been lost. Even some of the earliest

writers on the subject expressed the opinion that the Aztecs were descendants of the ancient tribes who once inhabited the interior of North America.

That the theory of great age is erroneous, to some extent at least, becomes apparent when it is known that the early French and Spanish explorers in the southern part of what is now the United States, discovered that among the Natchez Indians the house of the chief was always built upon an artificial mound. Mention of this fact is seen in a number of the early French archives, and as eminent an authority as Pierre Margry says: "When a chief dies they demolish his cabin and then raise a new mound, on which they build the cabin of the chief who is to replace the one deceased in this dignity, for the chief never lodges in the house of his predecessor."

How long this custom had prevailed among the southern Indians no one knows, but it may account for the large number of small mounds throughout the region once inhabited by the Natchez and their ancestors. It has also been learned that the Yamasee Indians of Georgia built mounds over the warriors slain in battle, and Charlevoix found among the Canadian tribes some who built earthworks similar in many respects to those described by Thomas in the Huron-Iroquois District.

Early investigators found in many of the small mounds burnt or baked clay and charcoal, for which they were at a loss to account. Subsequent research has disclosed the fact that among certain tribes, particularly those of the lower Mississippi country, the family hut was built upon an artificial mound in many instances. This has led Brinton to advance the theory that the house was constructed of poles and the cracks between the poles filled with clay. When the head of the family died, the body was buried under the center of the hut, which was then burned. As it is now known that this custom was followed for perhaps many generations, Brinton's theory would account for the burnt clay and charcoal, as well as for the large number of small mounds, each containing a single human skeleton.

Another evidence that there is some relationship between the Mound Builders and the Indians of more recent times is found in the pottery made by some of the southwestern tribes, which is very similar in both texture and design to the pottery found in ancient mounds. Among the cliff dwellers archaeologists have found weapons and utensils almost exactly like some of those found in the mounds, and some have even gone so far as to assert that the cliff dwellers are but the remnant of the once numerous and widely distributed Mound Builders.



In the light of these discoveries, it is not surprising that ethnologists are discarding the theory of a separate race and great age and advancing in its stead one of a vastly different nature, viz: That the Mound Builder was nothing more than the ancestor, more or less remote, of the North American Indian. The new theory, however, has not decreased the interest in the Mound Builders and their works. Says Thomas: "The hope of ultimately solving the great problem is perhaps as lively today as in former years. But, with the vast increase of knowledge in recent years, a modification of the hope has taken place."

#### MOUNDS IN STARK COUNTY

Nearly every county in the State of Illinois contains some evidence of having been inhabited by Mound Builders. Stark County is no exception. Many of the mounds in the state have been completely obliterated by the plow and many others show only slight traces of their former outlines. Flint spear and arrow heads, stone axes, human bones and a few specimens of pottery have all been found within the limits of Stark County. Formerly the spear and arrow heads were so numerous as to excite but little interest or comment. The most noted mound anywhere near Stark County is probably the one described by W. H. Adams, of Rochester, Peoria County, in a communication to the Smithsonian Institution in 1885. Mr. Adams says:

"On the north side of the Spoon River, eighty rods west of the east line and twenty rods south of the north line of section 12, township 11, range 4, east of the fourth principal meridian, is a round mound about thirty feet in diameter, called by those in the neighborhood 'the hogback.' On the highest part of this hogback, at the surface, is some evidence of fire. The evidences of a former fire increase very rapidly. At a depth of twelve to sixteen inches I found five skeletons, nearly all the bones of which were calcined by fire, and many of them entirely consumed. One of the skulls lay to the north, one to the northwest, one to the southwest, one to the south and one to the northeast. With the bones were fragments of sandstone burned red. At or near each skull, and nearly on a line between the point of the shoulder and the ear, was a water-worn pebble, except in one instance, and that was an angular piece of flint. The pebbles had not been acted upon by the fire, so that they were evidently placed there after the intense heat of the fire had subsided. From the appearance of the earth one would be strongly inclined to believe that the fire in



this instance had been one of unusual intensity. From the position of the skulls to each other, the feet of one body would reach to his neighbor's head, if laid at full length. One of the skulls was rather thinner than those we usually find in other mounds. Some of the teeth belonged to a person of great age; others of the teeth were very small, but I cannot say that they belonged to an infant. The skulls were in fragments, the largest piece obtained being about two inches square. On another hogback, east of the one described, commencing on section 12, township 11, range 4 east, extending across the northwest corner of section 7, township 11, range 5 east, and also some distance on section 6, township 11, are thirteen common round mounds, varying in height from eighteen inches to five feet. As far as examined these are burial mounds and in one I found nineteen skeletons. This one was forty-five feet in diameter and five feet high. The bones were in a fair state of preservation. I opened four or five of this group and in each were found pieces of trap rock from one and one-half to two inches square; pieces of burned sand rock, small water-worn pebbles, and in the largest mound a very small fragment of red pottery."

Although the mounds thus described by Mr. Adams are not within the limits of Stark County they are situated near its southwest corner. The first "hogback" mentioned by him is a little southeast of the Village of Etherley, Knox County, and the thirteen burial mounds almost touch the southwest corner of Stark. All are near enough to sustain the belief that the Mound Builder was once an inhabitant of the county. Mr. Adams and T. M. Shallenberger gave considerable attention to the archaeology of the Spoon River Valley, and after the Indians were removed from the country these two men visited all the old camping grounds and villages of the red men, leveling numerous small mounds in search of historic relics. Few were found, however, except arrow and spear heads, such as those above referred to, and some fragmentary skeletons. It is doubtful whether the skeletons found on the old village sites were those of Mound Builders or the bones of Indians buried there in comparatively recent years.

There is a sort of grim pathos in the reflection that where the white people of Stark County now live in peace and prosperity there once dwelt a people of widely different manners and customs; that in the march of time they passed out of existence, leaving only here and there the mounds and other relics to mark their place of residence. After the Mound Builder came the Indian, who in turn retired before

the superior civilization of the white man, and there is also a pathos in the reflection that 2,000 years hence another race may indulge in as much speculation over the relics left by the present occupants of the country as our scientists have indulged in over the mounds and earth-works of America's aboriginal inhabitants.

## CHAPTER III

### INDIAN HISTORY

DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN NATIONS AT THE CLOSE OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY — THE ILLINOIS — SUBORDINATE TRIBES — THE SACS AND FOXES—THE BLACK HAWK WAR—DEATH OF BLACK HAWK—THE POTTAWATOMI—THEIR VILLAGES IN STARK COUNTY—SHAB-BO-NEE—TREATIES WITH THE POTTAWATOMI—THEIR CHARACTER—THE WINNEBAGO—INDIAN NAMES.

When Christopher Columbus first discovered the Western Hemisphere, in 1492, he believed that he had at last reached the goal of his long cherished desires and that the country was the eastern shore of Asia. The first European explorers in America, entertaining a similar belief, thought the country was India and gave to the race of copper colored people they found here the name of Indians. Later explorations established the fact that Columbus had actually discovered a land hitherto unknown, but the name conferred upon the natives still remains. This race is divided into several groups, or families, each of which is marked by certain physical characteristics and the language spoken. At the beginning of the Sixteenth century the various groups, or at least the leading ones, were distributed over the continent of North America as follows:

In the far north were the Eskimo, a tribe that never played any important part in history. Their descendants still inhabit the country in the vicinity of the Arctic Circle, where some of them are occasionally employed as guides to polar expeditions.

The Algonquian family, the largest and most powerful of all the Indian nations or groups, occupied a large triangle, roughly bounded by the Atlantic coast from the most eastern point of Labrador to Cape Hatteras and lines from those two points to the western end of Lake Superior. To this great group belonged the tribes that once inhabited what is now the State of Illinois, the principal of which were the Illinois, the Sacs, the Foxes, the Shawnees, the Winnebagoes, the Ottawas, and the Pottawatomics.

In the center of the Algonquian country—along the shores of Lake Ontario and the upper waters of the St. Lawrence River—was the home of the Iroquoian tribes, to wit: The Oneidas, Onondagas, Mohawks, Cayugas and Senecas. To the early colonists these tribes became known as the "Five Nations." Some years later the Tuscaroras were added to the confederacy, which then took the name of the "Six Nations."

South of the Algonquian and Iroquoian families lay the country of the Muskogean family, the principal tribes of which were the Creeks, Chickasaws, Choctaws and Cherokees. The people of this group were among the most intelligent and aggressive of the North American Indians.

In the great Northwest, about the sources of the Mississippi River and extending westward to the Missouri, was the country of the Sionan group, which was composed of a number of tribes noted for their physical prowess and warlike tendencies. South and west of this lay the domain of the bold, vindictive Comanche, Apache and other tribes, closely allied to the Sioux in appearance, language and customs, while in various parts of the continent were minor tribes which claimed kinship with none of the great families. They were generally inferior in numbers, often nomadic in their habits, and consequently are of little historic importance.

Volumes have been written upon the subject of the North American Indian—his legends, traditions and habits—and it has not yet been exhausted. In a work of this nature it is not the design to give those tribes whose history is connected with the country now included an extended account of the Indian race as a whole, but to notice only within the State of Illinois and Stark County.

#### THE ILLINOIS

The Illinois—or Illini, as they were at first known to the white men—belonged to the Algonquian family and was the tribe from which the State of Illinois took its name. The organization of the Illinois was in the nature of a confederacy, which was composed of five subordinate tribes—the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Tamaroa, Michigani (or Moingwena) and the Cahokia. According to their traditions they were once a powerful tribe and took possession of their lands in Illinois by driving out some of the Sionan group. Later they made war on the Winnebago Indians and drove them northward, after which they held undisputed possession of the broad prairies of Illinois until about

the middle of the Seventeenth century, when they were attacked by the warlike Iroquois and forced to relinquish part of their domain.

The Illinois were expert hunters, skilled in the use of the bow and arrow, but could not successfully handle a canoe. The principal center of their confederacy was at Kaskaskia, which, during the most prosperous days of the tribe, numbered some eight thousand inhabitants. Their cabins here were well built and covered with a waterproof matting. Generally each cabin contained four fires, around which the inmates would gather of evenings, the old warriors relating instances of skill and bravery in the chase or in battle for the edification of the members of the younger generation.

About the beginning of the war with the Iroquois, in 1656, some of the Illinois crossed the Mississippi River and established several villages in what is now Lee County, Iowa, where they were visited by Marquette and Joliet in the summer of 1673.

In the summer of 1680 another invasion of the Illinois country was made by the Iroquois, who attacked the Peoria and Kaskaskia tribes, the object having been to drive them out and get possession of their hunting grounds. Many of the Illinois were killed, their homes burned, their crops destroyed and about nine hundred were carried away as prisoners.

In 1769 the Ottawa chief, Pontiac, who had formed the conspiracy and led the uprising against the white settlements six years before, was killed by some of the Illinois Indians. The great chieftain was the idol of his tribe and was also held in high esteem by the Chippewa and Pottawatomi Indians. The three tribes allied themselves in a war upon the Illinois to avenge the death of Pontiac. The Illinois, who had never fully recovered from the onslaughts of the Iroquois, were in no condition to meet such powerful enemies. Defeat after defeat followed in quick succession and the remnant of the tribe was driven to the summit of the bluff known as "Starved Rock," on the Illinois River, about half way between the present cities of La Salle and Ottawa. The bluff offered a good place of defense, as the sides of the rock are perpendicular, except in one place, and there not more than two persons could ascend abreast. Assault was therefore out of the question and the allies settled down to a siege. The Illinois held out until one dark, stormy night, when they made a sortie, but only a few succeeded in making their escape. Those few took to canoes and paddled down the river, finally reaching St. Louis, where they were given shelter and food by the white occupants of the fort.

One account says that their pursuers soon afterward appeared be-

fore the fort and demanded the surrender of the Illinois, that the tribe might be completely exterminated, and that when their demands were denied they departed with threats of vengeance against the fort—threats that were never carried into execution. After spending some time at the fort, until their strength was fully recovered, the refugees recrossed the Mississippi and joined their kindred tribes in Southern Illinois.

Some writers say that the Illinois were greatly addicted to vice and were almost constantly at war until they were converted by the teachings of Father Marquette and other Jesuit missionaries. But, so far as can be learned, the only aggressive wars ever waged by them were against the minor Sionan tribes and the Winnebagoes in the early days of their history, the accounts of which are only vague traditions. In the wars with the Iroquois, and the allied tribes above mentioned, the Illinois fought on the defensive.

#### THE SACS AND FOXES

These two tribes, which at one time occupied a large tract of country in Western Illinois, and no doubt hunted where Stark County is now situated, are usually spoken of as one people, though they were two separate and distinct tribes. They became allied by force of circumstances for their mutual protection, each tribe maintaining its identity, though one chief ruled over both.

The Sacs—also called Sauks and Saukies—belonged to the Algonquian family and were known as “The people of the outlet.” Their earliest known habitat was in the lower peninsula of Michigan, where they lived with the Pottawatomi. The name Saginaw, as applied to a bay and city in Michigan, means “the place of the Sac,” and marks the place where they once dwelt. The Sacs are first mentioned as a separate tribe in the Jesuit Relations for 1640, though they were then allied with the Pottawatomi, Mascoutens, Foxes and Kickapoos, and maintained friendly relations with the Miami and Winnebago tribes. Their traditions tell how they were driven from the shores of Lake Huron by the Iroquois and their allies before the middle of the Seventeenth century. They then retired by way of Mackinaw and a few years later found a new abode along the shores of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Father Allouez, one of the early Jesuit missionaries, in writing of these Indians in 1667, says: “They are more savage than any of the other people I have met; they are a populous tribe, although they have no fixed dwelling place, being wanderers and vagabonds in the forests.”

That portion of their traditions relating to their expulsion from the country on the west shore of Lake Huron and their pilgrimage to Green Bay is first told by Father Dablon, in the Jesuit Relations for 1671. Says he: "The Saes, Pottawatomies and neighboring tribes, being driven from their own countries, which are the lands southward from Missilimakinae, have taken refuge at the head of this bay, beyond which one can see inland the Nation of Fire, with one of the Illinois tribes called Oumiami and the Foxes."

In the same year that this was written, the Hurons and Ottawas started on an invasion of the Sioux country. On the way they persuaded the Saes and Pottawatomi to join the expedition. They were defeated in the undertaking and the surviving Saes returned to Green Bay, where they were content to live in peace for several years before making any more warlike demonstrations.

Dorsey divides the tribe into fourteen gentes, or clans. Marriages were usually made between men and women of different clans, though they were not forbidden among persons of the same clan. Polygamy was practiced to some extent, though in this respect the Saes were not so bad as some of the other Algonquian tribes. Their religion consisted of a belief in numerous "Manitous" and was rich in myth and fable.

The Foxes, also an Algonquian tribe, resembled in many particulars the Saes, with whom they became confederated. Their Indian name was Mesh-kwa-ke-hug (nearly always written Musquakies), signifying "People of the red earth." Their original dwelling place is somewhat uncertain. According to their traditions they once lived along the Atlantic coast in the vicinity of the present State of Rhode Island. Subsequently some of them occupied the country along the southern shore of Lake Superior, from which they were driven by the Chippewas. In 1634 Jean Nicolle found some of them on the Fox River, not far from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and in 1676 Father Allouez visited a band of Foxes on the Wolf River, in the same state. In his report of his year's work he speaks of a "Musquakie village of about five thousand inhabitants."

The name "Fox" originated with the French, who called these Indians "Reynors." They were regarded by the neighboring tribes as "avaricious, thieving, passionate and quarrelsome." With an intense hatred for the French they planned the attack upon the post at Detroit in 1712. The timely arrival of reinforcements saved the post and the Indians were signally defeated. The Foxes that took part in this movement then joined those spoken of by Father Allouez on the Wolf River.



About 1730 the Dutch and English traders, knowing the hatred of the Foxes for the French, formed an alliance with the tribe for the purpose of driving French competition from the fur country about the Great Lakes. On the other hand the French enlisted the cooperation of the Huron, Ottawa, Pottawatomi and some minor tribes. In the war which followed the Foxes were defeated and sought shelter with the Sacs who lived near Green Bay. The French authorities, thinking the Foxes had not been sufficiently punished, sent a force of French soldiers and Indians, commanded by an officer named De Villiers, to the Sac village on the shores of Green Bay to demand their surrender. The demand was refused by the Sac chiefs and a hard fought battle ensued, in which the Sacs were defeated, but the refugees were not surrendered. This was the beginning of the alliance which afterward resulted in the two tribes being generally recognized as one.

In the meantime some of the Sacs had migrated southward, into what is now the State of Illinois, and in 1731 they founded the Village of Sau-ke-nuk on the Rock River near its mouth. When those who remained in Wisconsin were defeated by the French and their Indian allies for defending the Foxes, they brought their refugees and joined the Sacs on the Rock River. At the beginning of the Nineteenth century there were about eight thousand Sacs and Foxes living along the Rock River, their hunting grounds extending eastward to the Illinois River. When Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike went up the Mississippi River in 1805, he visited the Sac and Fox villages in Illinois.

Of all the Indian tribes, the Foxes were probably the only one that had what might be called a coat of arms. The design consisted of an oblique line (supposed to represent a river), with the figure of a fox at each end, but on opposite sides. Following a victory in war this emblem was painted or carved on rocks and trees to tell the story of their valor and at the same time serve as a warning to their enemies.

The Fox tribe, according to Dorsey, was divided into twelve gentes. Their principal deities were Wisaka and Kiyapata, who were brothers. The former ruled the day and the latter the night. The principal features of their religion were animal fable and a crude mythology, and they had many ceremonial observances, anniversaries, etc. The Fox Indians practiced agriculture in a primitive way, raising corn, beans, tobacco, squashes and some other vegetables. In a few cases some big chief or warrior of note would be permitted to have more than one squaw, but polygamous marriages were the exception rather than the rule.

Two of the greatest chiefs in the history of the North American



Indians belonged to the allied tribes of the Sacs and Foxes. They were Black Hawk and Keokuk, both born of Sac parents, but recognized as chiefs by the Foxes. Black Hawk was a warrior and Keokuk was a politician. The latter never played any considerable part in the history of Illinois.

#### THE BLACK HAWK WAR

Black Hawk, whose Indian name was Ma-ka-ta-wi-me-sha-ka-ka, was born at the Sac village on the Rock River in 1767. His father, Py-e-sa, was a direct descendant of Nan-a-ma-kee (Thunder) and Black Hawk was therefore a member of the Thunder clan. According to tribal tradition, Nan-a-ma-kee had been intrusted by the Great Spirit with the great medicine bag of the Sac nation and instructed to keep it always within the clan. When Black Hawk was about nineteen years old his father was killed in an encounter with the Cherokee Indians and the youth thus became the custodian of the sacred medicine bag. This medicine bag had never been disgraced, and to prepare himself for the duty of preserving it unsullied Black Hawk took no part in the military affairs of his people for about five years, although he had been trained in the arts of war by his father and had already distinguished himself upon the field of battle. The five years were spent in praying to the Great Spirit to endow him with the necessary strength and wisdom to perform his duty. During that period he would frequently go to the promontory near his home on the Rock River, where he would pass hours at a time smoking and meditating. The promontory is still called "Black Hawk's Watch Tower."

On November 3, 1804, Gen. William H. Harrison, then governor of the Indiana Territory, negotiated a treaty at St. Louis with some of the minor chiefs of the Sacs and Foxes, by which the confederated tribes ceded their lands east of the Mississippi River to the United States, retaining the privilege of dwelling thereon until the lands were actually taken up by white settlers, when they were to remove to a new reservation west of the Mississippi River. There was a great deal of dissatisfaction among a large element of the Sacs and Foxes over the terms of this treaty. It was then the custom for these tribes to instruct their chiefs or delegates to a treaty council in advance as to what course was to be pursued, or afterward confirm the action of such chiefs or delegates by a vote. Some of the Indians claimed that the chiefs who attended the council at St. Louis had no definite instructions to sell the lands east of the Mississippi, and a portion of

the allied tribes, under the leadership of Black Hawk, refused to confirm their action.

At the beginning of the War of 1812 part of the Sacs and Foxes joined the British and became known as the "British Band of Rock River," of which Black Hawk was the leader. Shortly after the conclusion of the war treaties were made with the several tribes or bands which had fought on the side of England, but it was not until May 13, 1816, that Black Hawk and twenty-one other head men of the Rock River Sacs could be persuaded to enter into an agreement to keep the peace. On that date, at St. Louis, those twenty-two Indians "touched the goose quill," or signed a treaty reaffirming the treaty of November 3, 1804, though Black Hawk afterward declared that he did not understand what he was signing and repudiated his action.

In 1828 President Adams issued a proclamation declaring the lands ceded by the treaty of 1804 opened to white settlement and ordering the removal of the Indians to the west side of the Mississippi. As a matter of fact Chief Keokuk and his band had removed to the west side of the river about two years before the proclamation was issued, but Black Hawk refused to vacate until the United States Government actually sold the section of land upon which his village was situated. In 1830 he and his followers crossed the river "under protest," the old chief being far from reconciled to the situation.

In the spring of 1831, with a number of his braves and their families, he recrossed the river and they took possession of their old cabins and cornfields. The white settlers appealed to Governor Reynolds, of Illinois, for protection and the governor sent General Gaines to Rock Island with a force large enough to compel the Indians to go back to their new home west of the river.

During the winter of 1831-32 the Indians underwent severe hardships in their new homes. Their houses were poorly built and provisions were scarce, so that they suffered from both cold and hunger. About this time Black Hawk fell under the influence of Wa-bo-kie-shiek, a "bad medicine man," who advised him to recross the Mississippi, ostensibly to visit the Winnebagoes, secure the cooperation of that tribe and the Pottawatomies, and drive out the hated pale faces. Accordingly, on April 6, 1832, he again crossed over to the east side of the Mississippi within plain view of the garrison at Fort Armstrong, giving out the information that he was on his way to visit the Winnebagoes and join with them in raising a crop of corn. His disobedience was construed as a hostile demonstration, however, by

the military authorities, who feared that he might attempt to take possession of his old village on the Rock River. There is no evidence that he made or attempted to make any such an attempt, and some of the settlers, knowing that an Indian war party was never accompanied by the old men, women and children of the tribe, expressed the opinion that Black Hawk was on a peaceful mission.

Although the settlers felt no special alarm over the expedition, Governor Reynolds took the view that Black Hawk's conduct in the past had been such that he would "bear watching." He therefore ordered out the state militia to the number of 2,000 men, which force, under command of General Whiteside, was sent to the aid of the garrison at Fort Armstrong. There has always been a difference of opinion as to whether Black Hawk's intentions were really hostile. It is certain, however, that the first warlike movement was made by the whites. Major Stillman was sent out with a force of 250 mounted men to turn back the Indians. The detachment came upon Black Hawk and about forty of his warriors at some distance from where the main body of the Indians were encamped. Black Hawk sent forward five of his men bearing a flag of truce, to ask for a parley, but Stillman's men opened fire and two of the messengers were killed. The Indians then took up the fight according to the tactics of their race, concealing themselves behind trees and rocks and picking off the white troopers. Stillman's men being mounted fought at a disadvantage and in a short time were utterly routed, abandoning their provisions and camp equipage in their flight.

Up to this time no hostile demonstration had been made by the Indians. The killing of the two warriors while engaged in bearing a flag of truce was the beginning of hostilities. This occurred on May 12, 1832, and during the next month some raids were made by the Indians upon the unprotected settlements. But not all the atrocities were committed by the members of Black Hawk's band. A number of Winnebagoes and Pottawatomies took advantage of the disturbed conditions to kill and plunder, though they declined the invitation to join Black Hawk and "fight like men."

Stark County was at that time a part of Putnam, and though at some distance from the seat of war the settlers were greatly alarmed for fear that some straggling war party would reach the Spoon River Valley. Mrs. Shallenberger, in her "Stark County and Its Pioneers," says: "Many settlers along the frontiers of Northern Illinois, in dread of the untold horrors of savage warfare, fled from their lands and homes, some of them never to return. It was at this crisis that

volunteers from Spoon River rendezvoused at Hennepin, as related by Mr. Clifford, under the direction of the gallant Colonel Strawn in 'Bonaparte hat and laced coat,' and it is said that no less than fifteen hundred men reported themselves for service at that point."

Colonel Strawn's name does not appear in any published account of the war and it is possible that his men were employed for local defense. Immediately after Stillman's defeat volunteers were called for and on June 15, 1832, there were three brigades in camp at Dixon's Ferry, commanded by Gens. Alexander Posey, Milton R. Alexander and James D. Henry. In addition to these volunteer brigades, there were the regular troops at Fort Armstrong, commanded by General Atkinson, and the state militia under General Whiteside. And all this military array was considered necessary to overcome the little, half-starved band of Sacs and Foxes, whose hostile intentions had not yet been made certain.

General Atkinson being between Black Hawk and the Mississippi River, the chief started for the Wisconsin River, intending to descend that stream and recross the Mississippi. Early in June Maj. Henry Dodge, with his Galena Battalion, joined the forces at Dixon's Ferry. When it was learned that Black Hawk was making for the Wisconsin River, General Henry and Major Dodge started in pursuit. On July 21, 1832, they overtook the Indians at the Wisconsin, about fifty miles above its mouth, and Black Hawk was forced to make a stand until the women, children and old men could retreat across the river. With his few warriors he held the white soldiers at bay until the squaws constructed light rafts for the transportation of the goods and small children. These rafts they pushed across the stream, at the same time leading the ponies. When the noncombatants were out of danger on the other side, Black Hawk sent half his fighting force over. From the opposite shore these braves opened fire to cover the retreat of the chief and the remainder of his little band, who then swam across to safety. This feat was accomplished with fewer than two hundred warriors in the face of a vastly superior force, with a loss of only six men. Jefferson Davis, then an officer in Dodge's Battalion, afterward president of the Southern Confederacy, said of this maneuver:

"This was the most brilliant exhibition of military tactics that I ever witnessed; a feat of most consummate management and bravery in the face of an enemy of greatly superior numbers. I never read of anything that could be compared with it. Had it been performed by white men it would have been immortalized as one of the most wonderful achievements in military history."

The last battle of the Black Hawk War was fought at the mouth of the Bad Axe River on August 2, 1832. Here all the white troops were concentrated against Black Hawk, and a steamboat had been sent up the river from Fort Crawford to prevent the Indians from crossing the Mississippi. The force on this boat kept up a fire on the red men in front, while from all sides the Indians were assailed by the land forces. Yet, in spite of the great inequality in the strength of the two armies, Black Hawk held out for about two hours, hoping vainly for some fortunate turn in the battle that would permit at least a part of his people to escape. Some even attempted to swim the Mississippi, but the steamboat ran in among them, capturing a few and drowning others.

After the battle of the Bad Axe, Black Hawk escaped to the Winnebago village at Prairie la Crosse. Through the treachery of two Winnebago Indians, he was turned over to General Street, the Indian agent at Prairie du Chien, as a prisoner. His two sons were also captured and held as prisoners of war. They were confined at Fortress Monroe, Va., until June 4, 1833, when President Jackson ordered their release. Under the escort of Major Garland the three Indians were then taken on a tour of the country, in order that they might behold the greatness of the United States and the futility of again making war against the white men. When taken before President Jackson, Black Hawk said:

"I am a man; you are only another. We did not expect to conquer the whites. They had too many men. I took up the hatchet to avenge injuries my people could no longer endure. Had I borne them longer without striking, my people would have said Black Hawk is a squaw; he is too old to be chief; he is no Sac. These reflections caused me to raise the war whoop. The result is known to you. I say no more."

This speech has been quoted to show that Black Hawk really crossed the Mississippi with a hostile object in view. At its conclusion President Jackson presented the old chief with a beautiful sword—"a gift from one warrior to another." Black Hawk then rejoined the remnant of his band in Iowa and died there on October 3, 1838. An old Atlas of Stark County states that Black Hawk once had an encampment in what is now Goshen Township, but there is no corroborative testimony to show that he ever sojourned, even for a brief period, in the present county of Stark.

Tribal traditions and accounts in the Jesuit relations go to show that the Pottawatomis once constituted one of the powerful tribes of the Algonquian family. French missionaries and traders first came in contact with them near the northern limits of the lower Michigan peninsula, where they were known as the "Nation of Fire." Nicollet met with some of them in Wisconsin as early as 1664. Baequeville de la Potherie, an early French writer, says: "In 1665 or 1666 the Pottawatomis took the southern and the Sac the northern shores of Green Bay, and the Winnebago, who were not fishermen, went back into the forests to live on venison and bear meat."

A few years later the Pottawatomis moved southward in large numbers and took possession of the country around the head of Lake Michigan. In 1674 some of this tribe met Father Marquette on his return from the Mississippi River and acted as his escort part of the way back to Canada. As already related, they joined with the Ottawa and Chippewa tribes in a war with the Illinois Indians after the death of Pontiac, and as a result of that war became possessed of a portion of the lands once inhabited by the Illinois.

About the close of the Revolutionary war a part of the tribe moved eastward and in the early years of the nineteenth century occupied practically all that part of Indiana lying north of the Wabash River. By the treaty of August 24, 1816, they ceded their lands along the shores of Lake Michigan to the United States and received in exchange some of the Sac and Fox lands in Western Illinois. This brought them into the valley of the Illinois River and some of the tribe established their homes along Walnut Creek, in what is now Stark County. In 1830 the band removed to Indian Creek, in the present townships of Goshen and Toulon, where they were joined by others, and for a time this region was the principal hunting ground.

The leading Pottawatomis chief in this part of the state was Shab-bonee, who was really an Ottawa, but became chief through his marriage to a Pottawatomis maiden, daughter of a chief. In the War of 1812 he listened to the blandishments of the Shawnee chief, Tecumseh, and joined the British, but afterward proved to be a good friend to the white settlers. In 1832, at the time of the Black Hawk war, he visited the settlers on the Spoon River and warned them to leave, as the war was likely to extend to that part of the country. Acting upon his information David Cooper and the three Essex families went to the



fort at the foot of Peoria Lake, though they all returned to their homes in Stark County with the exception of Thomas Essex, Jr., who settled near Peoria. Shab-bo-nee died in Grundy County, Illinois, July 17, 1859.

On August 17, 1821, a council was held at Chicago, when Gen. Lewis Cass, as the commissioner of the United States, defined the Pottawatomie country as "extending along both sides of the Illinois River and all its tributaries, and along the western shore of Lake Michigan to Green Bay, with certain lands south of Lake Erie." At the same time the tribe relinquished title to about five millions of acres in Michigan and Northern Indiana.

Another council was held at Chicago on September 26, 1833, when the Pottawatomie chiefs and head men ceded all their remaining lands in Indiana, and all their possessions in Illinois, to the United States. Two years later they received their last annuity east of the Mississippi and soon afterward removed to reservations in Iowa and Missouri. A few of this once powerful tribe are still living in Kansas.

Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "Our pioneers report those they found here as a dirty, shiftless set, the men of the tribe eking out a precarious living by hunting and fishing, while the women broke the sod, built the 'pony fences,' and raised paltry crops of corn. They were given to begging most importunately, if not to stealing from their white neighbors; their villages or encampments, of which there were several within our present county limits, formed rendezvous, especially on Sundays, for the idle and vicious, where horse trading and liquor drinking went on, much as in later days at a gipsy camp. So destitute of any element of poetry or romance were the last days of the red man in this region, and their trails, their corn pits, and the graves of their dead were the legacies they left us when they took up their enforced march west of the Mississippi about 1835-36."

#### THE WINNEBAGO

Originally this tribe belonged to the Siouan family, but far back in the past they became allied with the Algonquian tribes living about the Great Lakes, and some ethnologists class them as being one of the Algonquian tribes. They are first mentioned in history as early as 1669, when they were allied with the Pottawatomie, Chippewa, Sae and Fox and other members of the Algonquian group.

In the Revolutionary war some of the Winnebago fought with the British, and in the summer of 1794 some took part in the battle

of Fallen Timbers against the white forces commanded by Gen. Anthony Wayne. A few were engaged in the battle of Tippecanoe in November, 1811, and with the Pottawatomi were active in the massacre at Fort Dearborn (now Chicago) in 1812. Shortly after that they located in that part of Illinois lying north and west of the Rock River, though they frequently visited their Pottawatomi brethren farther south, and it is quite likely that some of them passed through Stark County. They were friendly to Black Hawk at the time of his invasion of Illinois in 1832, though it was through the treachery of two members of the tribe that Black Hawk was captured. Not long after that they were given the strip known as the "neutral ground" in Iowa for a reservation in exchange for their lands east of the Mississippi. They intermarried freely with the Saes and Foxes and were closely allied to those tribes—so closely in fact that some of the last treaties made by the Saes and Foxes were submitted to the Winnebago chiefs and head men before they became effective.

The foregoing includes probably all the Indian tribes that inhabited or hunted over that part of Illinois now included in Stark County. As the march of civilization proceeded westward the Indian retired before the superior race, and about all that is left as a reminder of their former occupation of the country are the names of certain streams and towns which are of unquestionable Indian origin. The county seat of Gallatin County, in the southern part of the state, bears the name of Shawneetown, in memory of the Indian tribe that once lived in that region. Kaskaskia, Randolph County; Cahokia, St. Clair County; Tamaroa, Perry County; and the city and county of Peoria all bear names of minor tribes of the great Illinois confederacy, and Indian Creek, in Stark County, marks the site of the Pottawatomies' old hunting grounds.



## CHAPTER IV

### THE PERIOD OF PREPARATION

EARLY EXPLORATIONS IN AMERICA—SPANISH, FRENCH AND ENGLISH CLAIMS TO TERRITORY IN THE NEW WORLD—THE JESUIT MISSIONARIES—DISCOVERY OF THE MISSISSIPPI—MARQUETTE AND JOLIET—LA SALLE'S EXPEDITIONS—LOUISIANA—CROZAT AND LAW—THE MISSISSIPPI BUBBLE—CONFLICT OF INTERESTS—FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR—ILLINOIS A BRITISH POSSESSION—THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION—CLARK'S CONQUEST OF THE NORTHWEST—ILLINOIS UNDER VARIOUS JURISDICTIONS—ADMITTED AS A STATE—EVOLUTION OF STARK COUNTY—RECAPITULATION.

Bastiat, the eminent French writer on political economy, once wrote an essay entitled "The Seen and the Unseen." People of the present generation see the conditions around them, but they are not always so well acquainted with the conditions of former years, and therefore do not fully appreciate the influence of the past upon the present. Civilization is the outgrowth of a gradual evolution. Stark County, like all the political subdivisions of the United States, is the product of a series of events running back for many years. The part of each event may have been small, but the gradual development constitutes the "unseen" history of the county. It is therefore deemed advisable to devote a chapter to this subject, in order that the reader may be able to form some general idea of the evolution of the State of Illinois and the County of Stark.

In 1493, the year following the first voyage of Columbus to America, the pope granted to the King and Queen of Spain "all countries inhabited by infidels." At that time the extent of the continent discovered by Columbus was not known, but in a vague way this papal grant included the present State of Illinois, the region then inhabited by Indian tribes who knew not the religion of the Catholic Church, and therefore came within the category of infidels.

Three years later Henry VII of England granted to John Cabot and his sons a patent of discovery, possession and trade "to all lands

they may discover and lay claim to in the name of the English crown." Before the close of the century the Cabots had made explorations along the Atlantic coast from Cape Hatteras northward, and their discoveries formed the basis of England's claim to all the central portion of North America.

While Spain was pushing her explorations through the West Indies and along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and England was operating along the Atlantic seaboard farther north, the French Government sent Jacques Cartier on an expedition to the New World. He discovered and laid claim to the Valley of the St. Lawrence River and the country about the Great Lakes, from which base the French subsequently pushed their explorations and claims westward to the Mississippi River and southward into the Ohio Valley.

Following the usage of that period, each of these three great European nations claimed title to certain territory "by right of discovery." Spain's papal grant was strengthened by the expedition of Hernando de Soto into the interior in 1540-42, one result of which was the discovery of the Mississippi River. De Soto died in the wilds and his body was buried in the great river. The few survivors, after many hardships, finally reached the Spanish colony at St. Augustine and upon their report Spain, in 1543, claimed all the land bordering upon the Mississippi as well as the gulf coast. In this way what is now the State of Illinois became Spanish territory.

In 1620 the British crown, ignoring the authority of the pope and the explorations of De Soto, issued a charter to the Plymouth Company including "all the lands between the fortieth and forty-eighth parallels of north latitude from sea to sea." The southern boundary of this grant crossed Illinois about fifteen miles north of the present city of Springfield, and what is now Stark County was therefore included in the old Plymouth Company grant.

Eight years later (in 1628) the Massachusetts Bay Company received a grant that included a strip of land about one hundred miles wide "extending from sea to sea." The northern boundary of this strip crossed the Mississippi River not far from the present city of Prairie du Chien, Wis., and the southern crossed the State of Illinois about ten miles north of the north line of Stark County. Thus at least a part of the state was claimed by both Spain and England "by right of discovery," but no effort was made by either nation to extend colonization into the interior. Spain was so busily engaged in the search for the rumored rich gold and silver mines that she paid but little attention to the establishment of permanent settlements, while

the English were apparently content with the little colonies at Jamestown, Va., and in New England.

Meantime the French were not idle. Quebec was founded by Samuel Champlain in 1608, only one year after the English colony was planted at Jamestown. In 1611 Jesuit missionaries from Quebec visited the Indian tribes living about the Great Lakes, and in 1616 a French explorer named Le Caron visited the country of the Huron and Iroquois tribes. The reports of Le Caron and the missionaries convinced the French authorities that it was possible to open up a profitable trade with the natives, particularly in furs, and explorations were pushed still farther westward. In 1634 Jean Nicollet reached the Fox River country, in what is now the State of Wisconsin. For more than half a century, however, after the founding of Quebec, no systematic effort was made to establish anything like a colony in the Great Lake basin.

In the fall of 1665 Claude Allouez, one of the most zealous of the Jesuit missionaries, held a council with the Indians at the Chippewa village on the southern shore of Lake Superior. Chiefs of the Sioux, Chippewa, Sac, Fox, Pottawatomi and Illinois tribes were present and to them and their people Allouez promised the protection of the great French father, thus opening the way for the establishment of trading posts in the Indian country. Some of the Sioux and Illinois chiefs told Allouez of a great river farther to the westward, "called by them the *Me-sa-sip-pi*, which they said no white man had yet seen (they knew nothing of the expedition of De Soto), and along which fur bearing animals abounded."

This same Father Allouez and another missionary named Claude Dablon founded the Mission of St. Marys—the first white settlement in Michigan—in 1668. Friendly relations were soon established between the people of the mission and the neighboring Indians. In 1671 Jacques Marquette, one of the most influential of the Jesuit missionaries in America, founded the Mission of Point St. Ignace, near the present city of Mackinaw, for the benefit of the Huron Indians. For many years this mission was considered as the key to the great, unexplored West.

Father Marquette had first heard of the great river through the report given by Allouez of the council held at the Chippewa village in 1665, and as time passed he grew more desirous of verifying the Indian accounts of its existence. Fearing hostility, or at least opposition, on the part of the natives, he made no attempt to reach the river until after the founding of the mission at Point St. Ignace. Some

time was then spent in making his preparations and in obtaining the consent of the Canadian colonial officials. In the spring of 1673, armed with the proper credentials, he went to Michilimackinac to complete his final arrangements for the expedition. It is said that the friendly Indians, when they learned of his intention, tried to dissuade him from the undertaking by telling him that the Indians who lived along the great river were cruel and treacherous, and that the river itself was the abiding place of great monsters that could easily swallow a canoe loaded with men.

Giving no credence to the horrible stories, Marquette continued his work of preparation and on May 13, 1673, accompanied by Louis Joliet, an explorer and trader, and five voyageurs, with two large canoes, the little expedition left the mission.

#### DISCOVERY OF THE MISSISSIPPI

Passing up Green Bay to the mouth of the Fox River, they ascended that stream to the portage, crossed over to the Wisconsin River and drifted down that stream in the belief and hope that it emptied into the great river of which they were in search. Nor were their hopes idle and their belief without foundation. On the morning of June 17, 1673, a little over a month from the time they left Point St. Ignace, their canoes floated out upon the broad bosom of the Mississippi. Turning their canoes down the mighty stream, a few days later they came to what is now the State of Illinois, opposite the city of Dubuque, Iowa, and were probably the first white men to see the western part of the state.

On their way down the river Marquette and Joliet visited some of the villages of the Illinois Indians in Southeastern Iowa, after which they continued their voyage until they met with a tribe of Indians whose language they could not understand, when they retraced their steps and returned to the French settlements about Michilimackinac. They had been absent about four months and had traveled about two thousand five hundred miles, through an unknown region, anchoring at night in mid-stream to prevent attacks by foes, and to avoid any rocks or rapids that might be in the river.

Joliet was a good topographer and prepared a map of the country through which he and Marquette had passed. The reports of their voyage, when presented to the French authorities, made the knowledge of the Mississippi's existence certain and it was not long until a movement was started to claim the country drained by it for France.

## LA SALLE'S EXPEDITIONS

Robert Cavalier, *Sieur de la Salle*, in 1674, was granted the seignery of Fort Frontenac, where the city of Kingston, Canada, is now located, and on May 12, 1678, Louis XIV, then King of France, granted him a permit to continue the explorations of Marquette and Joliet, "find a port for the king's ships in the Gulf of Mexico, discover the western parts of New France, and find a way to penetrate Mexico."

Nicholas Perrot had already made some explorations in the Illinois country in 1671; the missionaries Allouez and Dablon visited the Illinois Indians in 1672; and in 1673 Father Marquette ascended the Illinois and Desplaines rivers. The information gained from the reports of these early explorers led La Salle to select the Illinois River route as the best way to reach the Mississippi. His first attempt ended in failure, chiefly because his preparations had not been carefully made. As his desire was to explore the great river from its source to its mouth, he sent Father Louis Hennepin in 1680 to lead an expedition from the mouth of the Illinois River to the headwaters of the Mississippi, and in April of that year Hennepin reached the Falls of St. Anthony, where the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, now stands.

Late in December, 1681, La Salle, accompanied by his lieutenant, Henri de Tonti; Jacques de la Metairie, a notary; Jean Michel, a surgeon; Father Zenobe Membre, a Recollet missionary, and "a number of Frenchmen carrying arms," started upon the second expedition to the mouth of the Mississippi. After a weary journey in the dead of winter, they arrived at Peoria Lake on January 25, 1682. La Salle had reached this point about two years before, and had here built Fort Crevecoeur (Broken Heart), so named because it was here he had been forced to abandon his first expedition. A short rest was taken at the old fort and on February 6, 1682, the whole party reached the mouth of the Illinois. Here another halt of a week was made until the Indian members of the expedition came up, their progress having been impeded by the heavy snow and ice. On the 13th the canoes started down the Mississippi and on April 8, 1682, La Salle and Tonti passed through two of the channels that led to the Gulf of Mexico. The next day La Salle formally took possession of all the country drained by the great river and its tributaries in the name of France, and conferred upon it the name of Louisiana, in honor of Louis XIV, the French king. Under this claim Illinois became a dependency of France.

Before the close of the year 1682 settlements were established by the French at Kaskaskia and Cahokia—the oldest settlements on the Mississippi River. A little later settlements or trading posts were established at Fort Chartres, Prairie du Rocher, Prairie du Pont and Peoria. To the French therefore belongs the honor of founding the first settlements within the limits of the present State of Illinois.

It is not surprising that in time a conflict of interests arose among the English, French and Spanish. Spain claimed the interior of the continent by virtue of De Soto's discovery of the Mississippi River. England had sent no expeditions into the interior, but upon the discoveries made by the Cabots claimed the country "from sea to sea." Neither Spain nor England made any attempt to found settlements in the Mississippi Valley. The claim of La Salle was acknowledged by other European nations after some dispute and hesitation and France remained in control of the great valley for more than three-quarters of a century. At the beginning of the eighteenth century the English settlements occupied the Atlantic coast from Maine to Georgia; Spain was in possession of the Peninsula of Florida and that part of the Gulf coast not included in Louisiana; and France held the Valley of the St. Lawrence, the Great Lake Basin and the Mississippi Valley.

In 1712 the French Government granted to Antoine Crozat, a wealthy merchant of Paris, a charter giving him exclusive control of the Louisiana trade under certain conditions. But when his agents arrived in the Gulf of Mexico they found the Spanish ports closed to Crozat's ships, for Spain, while recognizing France's claim to Louisiana, as based upon the discovery of La Salle, was jealous of French ambitions. After five years, tired of constantly combating the Spanish opposition and other difficulties, Crozat surrendered his charter.

Crozat was succeeded by the Mississippi Company, which was organized by John Law as a branch of the Bank of France. In 1718 Law sent about eight hundred colonists to Louisiana and the next year Philippe Renault went up the Mississippi to the Illinois country with about two hundred colonists. He reestablished the settlement at Kaskaskia and laid the foundations of the settlements at Prairie du Rocher and Prairie du Pont. Law was a good promoter, but a poor executive. In 1720 his whole scheme collapsed and so dismal was the failure that his company is known in history as the "Mississippi Bubble." In 1730 the white population of the French settlements in the Illinois country was about three hundred and fifty, and in 1732 Law surrendered his charter and Louisiana again became a French crown province.



## FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

In the meantime the English had been gradually pushing the frontier of their civilization farther westward. As early as 1667 the Hudson's Bay Company had been organized and its trappers and traders passed freely among the Indian tribes around the Great Lakes and in the Upper Mississippi Valley, despite the French claim to the territory and oblivious to the French protests against their trespasses. The attack of the Fox Indians on the French post at Detroit in 1712 was incited by the English traders. Again in 1730 the English and Dutch traders influenced some of the tribes to make war on the French in the hope of driving them from the country. The first open rupture between France and England did not come until 1753, when the former began the establishment of a line of forts from the Great Lakes to the Ohio River, for the purpose of holding back the threatened English occupation of the Ohio Valley. The French claimed that the Allegheny Mountains formed a natural boundary, west of which the British had no right to pass. One of the French forts was located upon land claimed by Virginia, and Governor Dinwiddie of that colony sent George Washington, then just turned twenty-one, to demand of the French commandant an explanation of this invasion of English territory while the nations were at peace. The reply was unsatisfactory, not to say insolent, and in 1754 Washington was sent into the disputed territory with a detachment of troops, having been promoted to lieutenant-colonel.

Some years before this a charter had been granted by the British Government to an association called the Ohio Company. The charter carried with it a large tract of country and the right to trade with the Indians on the Great Miami River. In 1750 the Ohio Company built a fort and opened a trading post near the site of the present City of Piqua, Ohio. The Canadian authorities, regarding this as an encroachment upon French territory, sent a body of soldiers and Indians to break up the post. The Ohio Company then began a new post at the head of the Ohio River, where the City of Pittsburgh is now located, but again they were driven away by the French. Part of Washington's instructions in 1754 was "to complete the fort already commenced by the Ohio Company at the forks of the Ohio, and to capture, kill or drive out all who attempted to interfere with the English posts."

An order of this kind naturally aroused the indignation of the French and in May, 1756, that nation formally declared war against

England. The conflict that followed is known in American history as the "French and Indian war," which in the end had a great influence upon the history of the Illinois country. After keeping the Indian tribes and American colonies in a state of turmoil for several years, the war was concluded by the treaty of Fontainebleau on November 3, 1762, by which France ceded that part of Louisiana lying east of the Mississippi River (except the City of New Orleans and the island upon which it is situated) to Great Britain. The treaty was ratified by the treaty of Paris on February 10, 1763, and on the same day it was announced that, by an agreement previously made in secret, all that part of Louisiana lying west of the Mississippi was ceded to Spain. Through the operation of these two treaties the jurisdiction of France came to an end in what is now the United States and Illinois became a British possession.

Many of the French subjects living east of the Mississippi refused to acknowledge allegiance to Great Britain and removed to the west side of the river. When the English colonies in America became involved in war with the Mother Country in 1775, a large number of the French, who had formerly lived in Illinois, recrossed the river and joined the colonists in their struggle for independence.

#### CLARK'S CONQUEST OF THE NORTHWEST

In the territory acquired by England by the treaty of 1763, several posts had been established by the French, prior to the cession. Near the present City of East St. Louis was Cahokia. Forty-five miles down the river was St. Philippe. A few miles below St. Philippe were Prairie du Rocher and Nouvelle Chartres (on the site of the old fort of that name), and a little farther south was Kaskaskia. On the Wabash River, in what is now the State of Indiana, were the posts of Ouiatenon and Vincennes, and still farther north was Detroit, the most important post of all. These posts were occupied by the British at the beginning of the Revolutionary war.

In 1777 George Rogers Clark, a colonel of the Virginia line, sent two spies—Samuel Moore and Benjamin Linn—into the Illinois country disguised as hunters to ascertain the conditions there. Upon their return they reported the population of Cahokia as 300 whites and 100 negroes; that a few French families were living at St. Philippe and Prairie du Rocher; that Kaskaskia consisted of eighty houses, 500 white inhabitants and nearly as many negroes; that in none of the posts was the garrison very strong, and that many of the French inhabitants were friendly to the American cause.



Armed with this information, Clark went before the Virginia Assembly and presented a plan for the overthrow of British power in the Mississippi Valley. On January 2, 1778, the Assembly voted £1,200 to defray the expenses of the expedition and the same day Governor Patrick Henry gave Colonel Clark secret instructions authorizing him to raise seven companies of fifty men each, obtain boats at Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) for the transportation of troops, ammunition and supplies down the Ohio River, "and during the whole transaction you are to take especial care to keep the true destination of your forces secret."

Clark raised but four of the seven companies. These four, commanded by Captains John Montgomery, Joseph Bowman, Leonard Helm and William Harrod, rendezvoused on Corn Island, in the Ohio River, not far from the present City of Louisville, Kentucky. On June 24, 1778, the little army left the island and dropped down the Ohio, Clark's intention being to ascend the Wabash and attack the post at Vincennes first. Circumstances caused him to change his plan and begin his campaign at Kaskaskia. Leaving the boats at the mouth of the Tennessee River, Clark marched his force across the country to Kaskaskia, which place was captured without opposition on the night of July 4, 1778.

The inhabitants were treated with every consideration and some of them joined Captain Bowman, who was sent up the river with his company to capture the post at Cahokia. Here another bloodless victory was won and the inhabitants cheerfully took the oath of allegiance to Virginia. Clark then commenced his preparations for the reduction of the post at Vincennes. Father Pierre Gibault, who had been in charge of the parishes between the Wabash and Mississippi rivers for ten years, volunteered to bring the people of Vincennes over to the American interests without any military demonstration, provided his name should not be used openly in the transaction and that Dr. Jean Baptiste Laffont, a physician of Kaskaskia, might be charged with the temporal part of the mission.

The priest and the doctor, with their attendants, left Kaskaskia on the 14th of July, with an address to the people of Vincennes authorizing them to garrison their own town, etc. They succeeded in their embassy and Clark placed the post under the command of Capt. Leonard Helm, who was also appointed Indian agent for the department of the Wabash.

So far everything had worked well and Clark had succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations. But late in the fall Henry

Hamilton, the British lieutenant-governor at Detroit, collected a force of thirty regulars, fifty French volunteers and 400 Indians, with which he descended the Wabash and on December 15, 1778, recaptured the post at Vincennes. No attempt was made by the inhabitants to defend the place. They were disarmed and Captain Helm was detained as a prisoner of war. When this unfortunate event occurred Clark was making his preparations for his advance upon Detroit, but now he deemed it more important to take and hold Vincennes.

On January 29, 1779, Francis Vigo, a Spanish merchant who had been at Vincennes, arrived at Kaskaskia and gave Clark the information that Hamilton had weakened his garrison by sending his Indians against the frontier settlements; that the garrison did not number more than seventy-five or eighty men, and that the plan was to have the Indians gather at Vincennes early in the spring for the purpose of driving the Virginians from Kaskaskia and Cahokia. Upon learning these things Clark realized that there was no time to be lost. On February 4, 1779, Capt. John Rogers and forty-six men embarked on a large keel-boat, with two four-pounders and four swivels and a supply of ammunition and provisions, under instructions to drop down the Mississippi and ascend the Ohio and Wabash rivers with all speed possible, while Clark, with the remainder of his force and some French volunteers marched across the country.

Crossing the Kaskaskia River, Clark followed the old trail between the two posts until he reached the Embarrass River, near the present City of Lawrenceville, where the flooded condition of the country caused him to change his course and he struck the Wabash River about ten miles below the post. The march was one of great hardships, the men often wading in water up to their waists and the rations were limited for the greater portion of the march. Notwithstanding all the obstacles, on the morning of February 18, 1779, they were near enough to the fort to hear Hamilton's morning gun. Three days later, two canoes having been found, the men were ferried over the Wabash not far from the present Town of St. Francisville.

In his account of the expedition Clark says: "Our fate was now to be determined, probably in a few hours. We knew that nothing but the most daring conduct would insure success." Confident that some of the inhabitants were friendly to the American cause, and believing that he had some friends among the Indians, Clark inaugurated his "daring conduct" policy by writing the following address:

"To the Inhabitants of Post Vincennes:

"Gentlemen—Being now within two miles of your village, with my army, determined to take your fort this night, and not being willing to surprise you, I take this method to request such of you as are true citizens and willing to enjoy the liberty I bring you, to remain still in your houses. And those, if any there be, that are friends to the king, will instantly repair to the fort and join the hair-buyer general, and fight like men. And if any such as do not go to the fort shall be discovered afterwards, they may depend on severe punishment. On the contrary, those who are true friends to liberty may depend on being well treated, and I once more request them to keep out of the streets. For every one I find in arms on my arrival I shall treat him as an enemy.

"G. R. CLARK."

After sending this by messenger, Clark began to maneuver his force in such a way as to make it appear much more formidable than it really was. A few horses had been captured from some hunters near the post. These were now mounted by the officers, who rode about in all directions, as though carrying orders. There were several stands of colors, each of which was fixed on a long pole and carried so that it could be seen above the top of one of the ridges, while the man who carried it remained out of view. These maneuvers were kept up until dark, when the direction of the advance was suddenly changed and before the inhabitants were aware of what was taking place Clark had gained the heights back of the village. Lieutenant Bayley advanced with fourteen men and opened fire upon the fort, the main body taking possession of the town.

Without going into details regarding the events of the next forty-eight hours, early on the morning of the 24th Clark sent the following communication to Hamilton under a flag of truce:

"Sir: In order to save yourself from the impending storm that now threatens you, I order you immediately to surrender yourself, with all your garrison, stores, etc. For if I am obliged to storm, you may depend on such treatment as is justly due to a murderer. Beware of destroying stores of any kind, or any papers or letters that are in your possession, or hurting one house in town—for, by Heavens! if you do, there shall be no mercy shown you.

"G. R. CLARK."

Hamilton replied that he and his garrison were not disposed "to be awed into any action unworthy British subjects," and the attack

on the fort was renewed. Some of the men begged to be permitted to storm the fort, but Clark knew he had no men to spare and kept his soldiers from exposing themselves as much as possible. In the afternoon Hamilton asked for a truce for three days, which Clark denied, and even refused to go to the gate of the fort for a conference, fearing treachery on the part of the British commander, who had won the appellation of "the hair-buyer general" through his custom of paying Indians a certain price for American scalps. However, Clark offered to meet Hamilton at the church, some eighty yards from the fort, and requested that Captain Helm, who was still a prisoner, be present at the parley. The result of the meeting was the surrender of the fort, with all its stores and munitions and Clark took possession at 10 o'clock the next morning. Three days later Hamilton and his troops took their departure from Vincennes. During the siege Clark lost one man wounded, while the British casualties amounted to seven wounded.

Virginia claimed the territory captured by Colonel Clark and in October, 1778, the Legislature of that colony passed an act providing that the conquered region should comprise the "County of Illinois," of which Col. John Todd was appointed county lieutenant in the spring of 1779. Soon after receiving his commission Colonel Todd visited Vincennes and Kaskaskia and organized in each place a temporary government, in accordance with the provisions of the act creating the county.

The importance of Colonel Clark's conquest can hardly be overestimated. By the treaty of September 3, 1783, which ended the Revolutionary war, the western boundary of the United States was fixed at the Mississippi River. Had it not been for the action of Colonel Clark and his little band of heroes in driving the British out of the Mississippi Valley, the chances are that the treaty would have applied only to the territory included in the thirteen original colonies, the western boundary of which would in all probability have been fixed along the summit of the Appalachian Mountains, and the interior of the continent would have remained an English possession. In 1784 Virginia relinquished her claim to the region and Illinois became territory of the United States. By the Ordinance of 1787 the country acquired by and through the campaign of Colonel Clark—lying north and west of the Ohio River—was organized as the Northwest Territory.

In 1800 all the Northwest Territory, except the present State of Ohio, was erected by an act of Congress into the Territory of Indiana, of which Illinois formed a part. On February 3, 1809, President

Jefferson approved the act making Illinois a separate territory and appointed Ninian Edwards governor. At that time there were but two organized counties within the present state limits—Randolph and St. Clair. Immigration into the new territory was rapid and on April 18, 1818, President Monroe approved the "Enabling Act," which authorized the people of Illinois to elect delegates to a constitutional convention and adopt a constitution, preparatory to admission into the Union as a state. The convention assembled at Kaskaskia in July, the constitution was ratified by the people and approved by Congress, and on December 3, 1818, Illinois was formally admitted to statehood. The two counties of 1809 have been multiplied until there are now 102 counties in the state. Stark became a separate and independent county in 1839.

Having thus briefly traced the evolution of Stark County, step by step, let us recapitulate. In 1543 the territory now comprising the county was claimed by Spain. Through the claim of La Salle, made on April 9, 1682, it was included in Louisiana and became a part of the French possessions in America. By the treaty of February 10, 1763, which ended the French and Indian war, it was ceded to Great Britain and remained a dependency of that government until the reduction of the British posts by George Rogers Clark in 1778. It was then a part of Virginia until 1784, when it was ceded by that state to the United States. By the Ordinance of 1787 it was made a part of the Northwest Territory. From 1800 to 1809 it formed a part of the Territory of Indiana. It was then included in the Territory of Illinois, which was admitted to statehood in 1818, when Stark was still held by the Indians. By the treaty of Chicago, September 26, 1833, the Indian title to the land was extinguished and the white man came into full possession.

What were once the hunting grounds of the Pottawatomi Indians are now cultivated fields. Where once was the Indian trail is now the railroad. The whistle of the locomotive has supplanted the war-whoop of the savage. The tepee of the red man has given way to the schoolhouse and the halls of legislation have taken the place of the tribal council. Indian villages have disappeared and in their stead have come the towns of civilization, with paved streets, electric lights, public libraries and all the evidences of modern progress. To tell the story of this progress is the aim of the subsequent chapters of this history.

## CHAPTER V

### SETTLEMENT OF STARK COUNTY

AN OLD TRADING POST—EVELAND AND ROSS—ISAAC B. ESSEX THE ORIGINAL PIONEER—FIRST CABIN IN STARK COUNTY—LIST OF SETTLERS EACH YEAR TO 1839—PIONEER LIFE AND CUSTOMS—THE HOUSE RAISING—FURNITURE AND UTENSILS—SWAPPING WORK—AMUSEMENTS AND PASTIMES—MARKING ANIMALS—THE OLD TRAPPER'S SOLILOQUY.

During the French occupation of the Illinois Valley a trading post was established at the site of the old Peoria Indian village, near the outlet of Peoria Lake. When Illinois was organized as a territory in 1809 and Ninian Edwards was appointed governor, this post was still in existence. Shortly after the beginning of the War of 1812 Governor Edwards became convinced of the sympathy of the inhabitants with the British cause. He therefore ordered the inhabitants banished and the seventy houses that then constituted the village destroyed. While the post was in existence, no doubt some of the traders there dealt with the Indians who lived within the present borders of Stark County, and these traders were probably the first white men to visit this portion of the state. They made no settlements away from the post, however, and it was not until some years later that the attention of immigrants was attracted to the fertile Spoon River Valley.

In 1828 William Eveland and Harvey L. Ross, accompanied by the French interpreter, Edouard Plude, left Lewistown, Fulton County, with a wagon loaded with goods for the purpose of trading with the Indians in Peoria, Stark and Knox counties of the present day. They were gone nearly a month, when they returned to Lewistown, where they reported a profitable trade, and that they found but two white settlers north of the Town of Canton.

In the fall of that year Isaac B. Essex came to the Spoon River Valley and selected a claim in section 15, township 12, range 6. He remained there long enough to cut logs and make the clapboards for a cabin, after which he returned to the "Shoal Creek Colony," where



the trading post had been destroyed by order of Governor Edwards, and there passed the winter. In April, 1829, equipped with two horses and a wagon laden with tools and supplies, and accompanied by his wife and little children, he set out for his home on the frontier. Pansing for a short time at the settlement known as "Prince's Grove," a short distance northwest of the present Town of Princeville, he there enlisted the cooperation of Daniel Prince, Frank Thomas, two Baptist preachers—Elders Silliman and Allen—Simon Reed, Stephen French, and perhaps one or two others, all of whom agreed to go with him to his claim and assist him in building his cabin. They arrived at the place late in the day and encamped the first night in the woods, but before sunset of the next day the cabin was completed and they "had a house to sleep in." This cabin was the first dwelling erected by civilized man within the present limits of Stark County.

Isaac B. Essex was born in Virginia in January, 1800. From his native state he went to Ohio, and while still a young man came to Illinois and was appointed teacher to the Indian children by Rev. Jesse Walker, the first Methodist minister in the state. After teaching a short time he took up a claim on the bank of the Mississippi River a short distance below Rock Island. Here he laid out a town, which he called Quebec, but the project failed and he went to Peoria, or the Shoal Creek Colony, where he remained until he came to Stark County. He continued to reside in Stark for many years, when he went to Dongola, Union County, where he passed the closing years of his life. Isaac B. Essex was a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Essex, who were married in Virginia in 1791, when he was twenty and she eighteen years of age. They followed their son to Stark County, where Elizabeth Essex died on January 26, 1853, and her husband followed her to the grave on May 15, 1853. Essex Township, where they first settled, was named in honor of this pioneer family. Others of the Essex family who settled in Stark County were Thomas, Jr., William, David and Joseph, brothers of Isaac, and a sister who was the wife of David Cooper. Further mention of this family will be found in the history of Essex Township.

The second white man to build a cabin in what is now Stark County was John B. Dodge, who located in section 14, township 12, range 6, not far from Mr. Essex. After a short residence there he entered land in section 3 and his cabin in section 14 was occupied by John E. Owings. Mr. Dodge it seems was a restless sort of an individual, who preferred life on the frontier and went to Texas about the time that state was annexed to the United States.

In the spring of 1830 Benjamin Smith, the father-in-law of John B. Dodge, became a resident of the county. He was accompanied by three others of the family—Sewell, Greenleaf and William P. Smith—and they built their cabin not far from that of Mr. Dodge. William D. Grant also came in 1830.

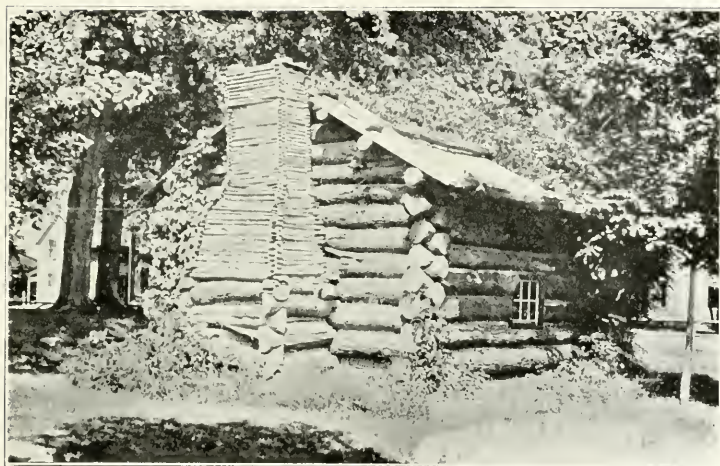
On the southeast corner of the public square, in the Town of Toulon, is a log cabin which was erected by the Old Settlers' Association and on August 25, 1898, it was dedicated to the "Old Settlers of Stark County." In the Toulon Public Library are two large, engrossed panels, framed and covered with glass, giving a list of the county's pioneers to whom the cabin is dedicated. From this list it is learned that the inhabitants of the county in 1831 were: Isaac B. Essex, Thomas Essex, Sr., Joseph Essex, Henry Seely, Benjamin, Greenleaf, Sewell and William P. Smith, David Cooper, Harris W. Miner, Sylvanus Moore, David Gregory, William D. Grant, John B. Dodge and Peter Sheets.

Those who came during the years 1832-33 were as follows: Pardon B. Dodge, Conrad, Jacob and Joseph Emery, John P. Hays, Jesse W. Heath, James Holgate, Elijah McClenahan, Sr., Elijah McClenahan, Jr., James and Robert McClenahan, Israel Seely, Minott Silliman, Lewis Sturms, Gen. Samuel Thomas and Jefferson Trickle. In this list there are a few names that are still well remembered in the county. Minott Silliman, a son of the elder Silliman, who helped Isaac Essex to build the first cabin in the county, was the first treasurer of Stark County. The first election in the county was held at the house of Elijah McClenahan, Sr., and Stephen Trickle was a member of the first board of county commissioners.

In 1834, according to the list, twenty-two families were added to the population, to wit: George Albright, Augustus Bailey, Isaac Chatfield, Giles C. Dana, Daniel Davis, John Finley, Nelson Grant, Charles Lake, Henry McClenahan, William Moore, Nero Mounts, Joseph Newton, William Parks, Charles Pierce, Ira and Lyman Riddle, Thomas Scott, Peter Shafer, Robert Sharer, Henry Sturms, Mathias Sturms, Dexter Wall and Thomas Winn.

The next year witnessed even a larger increase, as thirty-two pioneers settled within the county. They were: Thomas Bradford, James Buswell, Capt. Henry Butler, Henry Butler, Jr., Samuel Butler, Jarville Chaffee, David Currier, Peter Davidson, John Davis, Augustus Dunn, Barnabas Frail, Hugh Frail, John B. Howard, James and Robert Moore, Benjamin Newton, George Parker, Adam, Lewis and Swift Perry, John T. Phenix, Peter Pratt, Doctor Rich-





OLD SETTLERS' CABIN, TOULON

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ards, Milton and Silas Richards, Whitney Smith, Isaac Spencer, Nathaniel Swartz, James Thompson, Stephen Trickle, Thomas Watts and Calvin Winslow.

In the year 1836 the immigration passed the half-century mark, over fifty new residents establishing their homes in Stark County. Those who came this year were: John W. Agard, Ephraim Barnett, J. H. Barnett, Moses Boardman, Charles Bolt, William Bowen, Myrtle G. Brace, Henry Breese, E. S. Broadhead, John Brown, Jacob Claybaugh, Henry Colwell, Presley Colwell, Enoch and Nathan Cox, Lemuel Dorrance, Andrew Dray, Ezekiah and Martin Dukes, William Dunbar, George R. Eckley, Lewis Finch, Brady Fowler, Orange Fuller, Frank Grady, George, John, Langley, Robert and William Hall, Smith Hayes, John W. and Col. William Henderson, Benjamin F. Hilliard, Philip Keller, Joseph D. Lane, Joseph K. Lane, Nathaniel McClure, William Mahany, Richard Maskel, John Miller, Josiah Moffit, Howard Ogle, William Ogle, Virgil Pike, John Pratz, Christopher Sammis, Sumner Shaw, Ashur Smith, Jacob Smith, John Spencer, Andrew Swartz, Edward Trickle, Horace Vail, Archibald and Charles Vandyke, John White, Nehemiah Wycoff.

Those who settled in the county in 1837 were: P. J. Anschutz, Zebulon Avery, Carson and John Berfield, Nelson Bonham, Dr. Alfred Castle, Thomas S. Clark, William Cue, Adam Day, W. W. Drummond, Calvin and Stephen Eastman, Joseph and Levi Eckley, Caleb Flint, Ansil Fuller, Luther Geer, Joshua Grant, David Guyer, Dr. Thomas Hall, John Hamilton, Aaron Harvey, Harry Hays, John Hester, Jonathan Hodgson, D. S. Hurd, Theodore F. Hurd, Henry T. Ives, Lemuel B. Leonard, William Lyall, Thomas Lyle, Thomas McNaught, Abiah Manning, Newton Matthews, Orin Maxfield, Charles H. and Rev. Jonathan Miner, Adam and Thomas Oliver, Stephen Ordway, Joseph Palmer, Ruloff and Squire Parrish, Joseph Perry, Isaac Polhamus, Edward Porter, William Porter, Calvin Powell, Sr., William Pratt, Benjamin Ricker, W. W. Riggin, Robert Rule, David, Jacob and John Simmerman, Israel Stoddard, Liberty Stone, John F. Thompson, Charles Todd, John Turnbull, William Wheeler, Oliver Whitaker and Hewes White.

The list of settlers for 1838 includes the following: Philander Arnold, Royal Arnold, David W. Brown, Timothy and William Carter, Riley Chamberlain, Dr. Ebenezer Clarfield, John Culbertson, John Curdiffe, Elijah Eltzroth, Joshua Gilfillan, Christian Gingrich, Daniel Gingrich, Daniel Hodgson, B. M. Jackson, Jonathan H. and James Jackson, John Laekey, Caleb Lyon, David Rouse, Philip

Shaner, John and Nathan Snare, Levi Stephens, Jacob Stites, Luman Thurston, Robert Turnbull, Cyril Ward, Ira Ward and Joseph H. Wilber.

In March, 1839, the Legislature of Illinois passed the act providing for the organization of Stark County. During that year the following persons and their families settled in the new county: James L. Ayers, Jeremiah Bennett, Joseph and William D. Blanchard, Samuel Camp, Alexander Christy, Asa Currier, Luther Driscoll, Ellis Dwire, F. W. Emery, James Headly, George Jackson, Sheridan Jones, John McWilliams, William Mason, E. C. Merritt, John Pryor, John Riffin, John Russell, Benjamin Turner and W. A. Walters.

The above list of pioneers, compiled as it is from the records of the Old Settlers' Association, is probably as nearly correct as it can be made and includes a majority, if not all, of those who settled in the county prior to its organization. Further mention of many of these early settlers, giving the places where they located and some account of their achievements, will be found in the chapter on Township History.

#### PIONEER LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Looking back over a period of four score and six years, to the time when Isaac B. Essex built his lonely cabin on the banks of the Spoon River, about two and a half miles southwest of the present Town of Wyoming, it occurs to the writer that the young people of the present generation may find some interest in learning how the first settlers in Stark County lived. Imagine a vast unbroken tract of country, interspersed with forest and prairie, stretching away toward the Mississippi River, with but few white settlers between the Shoal Creek Colony at Peoria and the great Father of Waters. It was into this wild region that the Stark County pioneers came—not as conquerors, seeking to enrich themselves with the spoils of a vanquished foe, but, armed with axes, rifles and farming utensils, they came to conquer and subdue the wilderness, build roads, schoolhouses and churches, and develop the resources of a state that today ranks second to none in the American Union.

One of the first things that confronted the pioneer was the necessity of some sort of shelter for himself and family. The manner in which the first cabin in Stark County was built has already been told. Sometimes two or more families would come into a new country together. In such cases one cabin would be erected, in which all would

live together until each settler could stake his claim and build a dwelling of his own. Lumber and brick were luxuries unknown to the frontier settlement, hence the log cabin was the universal type of residence. The first cabins were built of round logs, but a little later some of the more aristocratic citizens put up hewed log houses. And what an event was a "house-raising" in a new settlement.

After the settler had cut his logs and dragged them to the site of the cabin—quite likely with a team of oxen—invitations were sent to the neighbors, some of whom lived several miles distant, to attend the "raising." Very seldom was such an invitation declined. When all were assembled the first thing was to select four men, skilled in the use of the ax, to "carry up the corners." It was the duty of these four men to take their stations at the four corners of the cabin and, as the logs were lifted up to them, to shape a "saddle" upon the top of each log and cut a notch in the under side of the next to fit upon the saddle. The notch in the butt end of the log had to be cut a little deeper than the one in the top end, in order that the walls might be carried up approximately level, a work that was aided by alternating the butt and top ends of the logs on each side and end of the cabin. No plumb line was used to keep the walls perpendicular, that part of the work depending upon the eye of the cornerman.

No openings were left for doors and windows, but these were sawed or chopped out afterward. At one end an opening was made for the fireplace, just outside of which was constructed a chimney. If stone was convenient the chimney was built of stone; if not it was built of sticks and clay. The roof was invariably of clapboards, split or "rived" with an instrument called a frow, and were held in place by a pole running the full length of the cabin and fastened to the end logs with wooden pins. The floor, if there was one, was made of puncheons—that is, slabs of timber split as nearly the same thickness as possible and smoothed off on the upper surface after the floor was laid. The door was also made of thin puncheons, hung on wooden hinges and provided with a wooden latch. To lift the latch from the outside a thong of buckskin was passed through a small hole in the door. At night the latch string was drawn inside and the door was locked. This custom gave rise to the saying, "The latch string is always out," used to signify that a visitor would be welcome at any time. Nails were rare and not infrequently the entire cabin would be finished without a single piece of iron being used in its construction.

The furniture was usually of the "home-made" variety and of the simplest character. Holes bored in the logs of the walls and fitted

with pins, upon which boards were laid, formed the "china closet." Smaller pins driven into the walls were used to hang clothing on and constituted the only "wardrobe" of the family. Boards taken from packing cases, or clapboards, battened together, formed the top of a table, which was supported on two trestles. When not in use, the top of the table could be leaned against the wall, or set outside the cabin, and the trestles could be placed one on top of the other to make more room. In one corner of the cabin was the bedstead, which was made by boring holes in the logs at a suitable distance from the corner for the length and width of a bed and inserting poles, which were supported at the outer corner by a post. Across this framework clapboards were laid, one end resting on the "bed rail" and the other in a crack of the cabin, and on these boards was placed the "straw tick." Benches and stools took the place of chairs. A few immigrants brought with them a little factory made furniture and a sash filled with glass for a cabin window, but in a majority of cases the furniture was "home made," and light was admitted through oiled paper instead of glass.

Stoves were unknown and the cooking was done at the fireplace, an iron teakettle, a copper-bottomed coffee pot, a long-handled skillet and a large iron pot being the principal cooking utensils. The skillet was used for frying meat and baking bread and the iron pot was used in the preparation of the "boiled dinner." While doing the cooking the housewife often wore a deep sunbonnet to protect her face from the heat of the open fire. "Johnny cake" was made by spreading a stiff dough of corn meal upon one side of a smooth board and propping it up in front of the fire. When one side was baked sufficiently, the dough would be turned over so that the other side might have its inning. A liberal supply of johnny cake and a bowl of fresh milk often constituted the only supper of the pioneer.

Somewhere in the cabin, two hooks, formed from the forks of small trees, would be pinned against the wall or to one of the upper joists for a gun rack. Here rested the long, heavy rifle of the settler and suspended from its muzzle or one of the hooks hung the bullet-pouch and powder-horn.

After the "house-raising" came the "house-warming." A new cabin was hardly considered fit to live in until it had been properly dedicated. In nearly every frontier settlement there was at least one man who could play the violin. The "fiddler" was called into requisition and the new cabin would become a "sound of revelry by night." The two-step, the tango or the hesitation waltz were not known, but

the Virginia reel, the stately minuet or the old-fashioned cotillion, in which someone called the figures in a stenotorian voice, were very much in evidence. It is doubtful if the guests at a presidential inaugural ball ever derived as much genuine pleasure from the occasion as did these people of the frontier at a house-warming. If the owner of the cabin had scruples against dancing, the house was warmed by festivities of a different character, but it had to be "warmed" in some way before the family took full possession.

How easy it is at the present time to enter a room at night, turn a switch and flood the whole place with electric light! It was not so four score years ago in Stark County. The housewife devised a lamp by using a shallow dish, in which was placed a quantity of lard or bear's grease. In this grease was immersed a loosely twisted rag, one end of which was allowed to project slightly over one side, and the projecting end was lighted. The smoke and odor emitted by such a lamp could hardly be endured by fastidious persons of the present day, but it answered the purpose then and gave light enough to enable the good woman to perform her household duties. Next came the tallow candle, made in moulds of tin. Sometimes only one set of candle moulds could be found in a new settlement and they passed freely from house to house until all had a supply of candles laid away in a cool, dry place sufficient to last for many weeks. Often, during the winter seasons, the family would spend the evening with no light except that which came from the roaring fire in the great fireplace.

No one wore "store clothes" in the early days. The housewife would card her wool by hand with a pair of broad-backed wire brushes, the teeth of which were slightly bent all in one direction. Then the rolls would be spun into yarn on an old-fashioned spinning wheel. She would next weave the yarn into cloth upon the old wooden hand loom and make it into garments for the members of the family, doing all the sewing with a needle. A girl sixteen years of age, who could not spin her "six cuts" a day and make her own dresses was hard to find in a new settlement. How many graduates of the Stark County high schools in 1916 know what "six cuts" means!

In these days, with plenty of money in circulation, when anyone needs assistance he hires someone to come and help him. When the first white men came to Stark County, money was exceedingly scarce and they overcame the difficulty by helping each other. Cooperation was the rule. All the settlers in a community would join in raising a cabin for a newcomer, although a total stranger. If a clearing was made in the timber they would all join in the "log-rolling." By this



means the logs would be piled in great heaps, so that they could be burned. The same system was followed in harvest time. Frequently ten or a dozen men would gather in a neighbor's wheat field, and while some would swing the cradle others would bind the sheaves and shock them, after which the whole crowd would move on to the next field where the wheat was ripe, and so on until the entire crop of the neighborhood was cared for, or at least made ready for threshing. No threshing machines had as yet made their appearance and the grain was separated from the straw with a flail or tramped out by horses or cattle upon a smooth piece of ground, or upon a barn floor, if the settler was fortunate enough to have a barn with a floor that was suitable.

And the community of interests, the custom of "swapping work," did not apply alone to the men. While they were raising the cabin, rolling the logs or harvesting the wheat, the "women folks" would get together and prepare dinner, each one bringing from her own store some delicacy that she thought the others might not be able to supply. If the weather was pleasant the table would be set out of doors. Bear meat and venison took the place of terrapin and canvas-back duck, but each man had a good appetite by the time the meal was ready and the quality of the food was not criticized. The main thing was to have plenty of it, and when they arose from the table it "looked like a cyclone had struck it." Each family had its turn and by the time the year rolled around no one suffered any disadvantage in the amount of food consumed.

Now, when a family needs a supply of breadstuff, all that is necessary is to step to the telephone and order the grocer to send out a sack or a barrel of flour, but in the early days going to mill was no light affair. Mills were few and far apart and the settler would often have to go such a distance that two or three days, or even more, would be required to make the trip. To obviate this difficulty various methods were introduced for making at home corn meal—which was the principal breadstuff of the first settlers. One of these methods was to build a fire upon the top of a large stump of some hard wood and keep it burning until a hollow was formed. The charred wood was then carefully cleaned out of the "mortar," corn poured in small quantities into the mortar and beaten into a coarse meal with a hard wood "pestle" or a smooth stone. In the fall of the year, before the corn was fully hardened, the "grater" was brought into requisition. This implement was made by punching holes closely together through a sheet of tin, which was then fastened to a board, rough side upward,



so that the tin would be slightly convex on the outer surface. Then the corn would be rubbed over the rough surface, the meal passing through the holes and sliding down the board into a vessel placed to receive it. A slow and tedious process was this, but a bowl of mush made from grated corn meal and accompanied by a generous supply of good milk formed a repast that was not to be sneered at, and one which no pioneer blushed to place before a visitor.

Matches were exceedingly rare and a little fire was always kept somewhere about the cabin "for seed." During the fall, winter and early spring months, the fire was kept in the fireplace, but when the weather grew warm a fire was kept burning out of doors. If, by some mishap, the fire was allowed to become extinguished one of the family would have to go to the nearest neighbor's for a new supply.

But if the pioneers had their hardships, they also had their amusements and pastimes. Old settlers can recall the shooting matches, when men met to try their skill with the rifle, the prize being a turkey, a haunch of venison or a quarter of beef. And some of these old pioneers with their hair-trigger rifles, could hold their own with the best of our military sharpshooters. Then there was the "husking bee," in which pleasure and profit were combined. On such occasions the corn to be husked would be divided into two piles, as nearly equal in size as possible. Two of the invited guests would then "choose up" and divide those present into two sides, the contest being to see which side would first finish its pile of corn. Men and women alike took part and the young man who found a red ear was permitted by the rules of the game to kiss the lassie next to him. "Many a merry laugh went round" when someone found the red ear and the lassie objected to being kissed. Sometimes the young men would play an underhand game by passing a red ear surreptitiously from one to another.

After the orchards were old enough to bear fruit, the "apple cutting" became a popular form of amusement, when a number of young people would assemble to pare and slice enough apples to dry for the winter's supply. The husking bee and the apple cutting nearly always wound up with a dance, the orchestra consisting of the one lone fiddler in the neighborhood. He might not have been a classic musician, but he could make his old fiddle respond to such tunes as "Turkey in the Straw," "Money Musk," "The Bowery Gals," and "The Wind That Shakes the Barley Fields," and he never grew tired in furnishing the melody while the others tripped the light fantastic toe.

On grinding days at the old grist mill a number of men would meet, and while waiting for their grists would pass the time in athletic

contests, such as foot races, wrestling matches or pitching horseshoes. The women had their quilting parties, and after the public school system was introduced, the spelling school became a frequent place of meeting. At the close of the spelling match the young men could "see the girls home," and if the acquaintance thus commenced ripened into an intimacy that ended in a wedding, it was usually followed by a charivari, or, as it was pronounced on the frontier, a "shivaree," which was a serenade in which noise took the place of harmony. The proceedings were kept up until the bride and groom came out where they could be seen, and the affair ended all the more pleasantly if each member of the shivareeing party was presented with a slice of wedding cake to place under his pillow to influence his dreams.

There was one custom of olden times that should not be overlooked, and that was the manner in which each settler marked his domestic animals so that they could be identified. There were not many fences and stock of all kinds was permitted to run at large. To protect himself, the pioneer farmer cropped the ears of his cattle, hogs and sheep in a peculiar manner and these marks were made a matter of record. The principal marks were the plain crop, the upper and under bits, the swallow fork, the upper and lower slopes, the slit, the round hole, and perhaps a few others, by a combination of which each settler could mark his stock in a way different from that of any of his neighbors. The "upper bit" was a small notch cut in the upper side of the ear; the "under bit" was just the reverse; the "swallow fork" was made by cutting a deep notch in the end of the ear similar in shape to the tail of a swallow, from which it derived its name, and so on. If someone found a stray animal marked with an "upper bit in the left ear and a swallow fork in the right," all he had to do was to inquire at the recorder's office for the owner of such a mark. These marks were seldom violated and they protected the settler as surely as the manufacturer is protected in the right to use his registered trade mark.

One accustomed to the conveniences of modern civilization would suppose that the early settlers would be glad to escape the hardships and disadvantages of frontier life. But there were some who evidently preferred it to any other. Many who came to Illinois in an early day and aided in the development of the state's resources afterward crossed the Mississippi and became pioneers a second time in Iowa, Nebraska or Kansas. There is a freedom on the frontier that becomes restricted as population increases, and many preferred the freedom with its hardships to the advantages of an older community with its conventionalities. Such persons are well described in Brinistool's beautiful poem:

## THE OLD TRAPPER'S SOLILOQUY

I've taken toll from every stream that held a furry prize,  
But now my traps are rustin' in the sun;  
Where once the broad, free ranges, wild, unbroken met my eyes.  
Their acres have been civilized and won.  
The deer have left the bottom lands; the antelope the plain,  
And the howlin' of the wolf no more I hear,  
But the busy sounds of commerce warn me of an alien reign,  
As the saw and hammer echo in my ear.

I've lived to see the prairie soil a-sproutin' schools and stores,  
And wire fences stretch on every hand;  
I've seen the nesters crowdin' in from distant foreign shores,  
And the hated railroads creep across the land.  
My heart has burned within me, and my eyes have misty grown,  
As Progress came unbidden to my shack;  
My streams have all been harnessed and my conquest overthrown,  
And I've been pushed aside and crowded back.

I've seen men come with manners and with customs new and strange,  
To take the land which I have fought to hold;  
I've watched the white-topped wagons joltin' on across the range  
With those who sought to lure the hidden gold.  
I've seen the red man vanquished and the buffalo depart,  
And cowmen take the land which they possessed,  
And now there's somethin' tuggin' and a-pullin' at my heart,  
And biddin' me move on to'rds the West.

There aint no elbow room no more to circulate around,  
Since Civ'lization stopped beside my door;  
I'll pack my kit and rifle and I'll find new stompin' ground,  
Where things is like they was in days of yore.  
I've heard the mountains whisper, and the old, free wild life calls,  
Where men and Progress never yet have trod;  
And I'll go back and worship in my rugged canyon walls,  
Where the pine trees croon and Nature is my God.

## CHAPTER VI

### STARK COUNTY ORGANIZED

THE MILITARY LAND GRANT—FORGED TITLES—FIRST COUNTIES IN THE ILLINOIS VALLEY—STARK COUNTY—THE ORGANIC ACT—FIRST ELECTIONS—THE COUNTY SEAT—CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT—THE COURT-HOUSE—THE ANNEX—THE COUNTY JAIL—SHERIFF MURCHISON'S REPORT—THE POOR FARM—HOW THE COUNTY WAS NAMED.

Shortly after the close of the War of 1812 the United States Government appropriated and had surveyed a large tract of land in Illinois to be given to the soldiers who took part in that war. The "Military Bounty Land Grant," as it was called, was situated between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers and extended northward to about the north line of Henry and Bureau counties. While a large number of the veterans took advantage of the Government's liberality to secure warrants, or patents, to a "quarter section," there were only a few who became actual settlers on their claims. A large majority of them traded their patents to speculators, rarely receiving the real worth of the land. When the actual settlers began to come into the tract, in which Stark County was included, they found a badly mixed-up situation with regard to land titles, with no sure way of telling which quarter section belonged to some individual under the military bounty act, and which was subject to entry. Those who held patents to the lands generally kept out of sight until some settler would make improvements, when they would turn up with a "prior title." These land sharks showed but little mercy to the pioneers—the men who were really developing the country—and in numerous instances deeds and patents were actually forged for the purpose of defrauding the settlers. Claim associations were organized in several places throughout the tract, one of which was formed by the settlers about Osceola Grove, now in the northeast part of Stark County. Through the operation of these associations the land shark and speculator was sometimes given short shrift and the settlers were able to hold their lands until they could purchase them from the Government. One of



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the most notorious of the land sharks and claim jumpers was a man named Toliver Craig, who was charged with forging titles, and who, it is said, placed forty fraudulent deeds on record in one day at Knoxville. In 1854 he was arrested in the State of New York and taken to the jail at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he tried to commit suicide by taking arsenic. After remaining in jail about a year he was released on bail and disappeared.

This condition of affairs is here mentioned to show one of the phases of frontier life that the early settler in this section of Illinois had to contend with, along with the other hardships, and that the men who came here with the determination to make homes for themselves could not be defeated in their purpose, no matter how adverse the conditions. It was several years before the conflict over titles to the land was finally settled.

In the preceding chapter is given a list of those who settled within the present limits of Stark County between the years 1829 and 1839. At the time the first of these settlers came into the Spoon River Valley the territory was attached to Peoria County for all legislative and judicial purposes. Peoria County was created in 1825 and the act providing for its organization attached to it all the territory north of it within the State of Illinois, "on both sides of the Illinois River as far east as the third principal meridian," which marks the present eastern boundary of Putnam and Bureau counties.

Knox, Henry and Putnam counties were set off from Fulton County, and by the act of April 2, 1831, Putnam was divided into four precincts, one of which, known as "Spoon River Precinct," included "all the county south of the direct line from the head of Crow Prairie to Six Mile Grove, thence northwest to the original county line." Bureau Precinct embraced all the present county of that name and portions of Marshall and Stark.

As the number of settlers in the Spoon River Valley increased they began to feel the inconvenience of having to go to Hennepin to attend court and transact their county business, and a movement was started for the organization of a new county. At the legislative session of 1836-37 the County of Bureau was established and an act "for the formation of Coffee County" was also passed and approved by the governor. Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "Now as Col. William Henderson was, from his first settlement here, prominent in local politics, and known to be an enthusiastic admirer of the Tennessee hero, General Coffee, with or under whom he had done military service, it is highly probable that this, as well as subsequent acts for the same purpose, was secured through his instrumentality."



Under the act of 1836 the County of Coffee was to consist of nine Congressional townships, six of which were to be taken from Putnam, two from Knox and one from Henry. Benjamin Mitchell, Richard N. Cullom and Samuel Hackleton were named in the act as commissioners to locate the county seat, which was to be called Ripley, unless some town already established should be selected. The act was not to become effective, however, unless a majority of the voters of Knox and Henry counties should give their assent to the formation of the new county at an election to be held on April 10, 1837. Putnam was not allowed the opportunity of voting on the proposition, and in the other counties a majority was against the establishment of the new county. That was the end of Coffee County.

In February, 1838, a meeting was held at the house of James Holgate, near Wyoming, to discuss the question of petitioning the next session of the Legislature to organize a new county. A factional fight arose over the question of the eastern boundary, some wanting the county to extend eastward to the Illinois River, and a spirited campaign followed in 1838. Colonel Henderson was elected to the Legislature and on January 16, 1839, he presented a petition from a large number of citizens of Putnam, Knox and Henry counties praying for the erection of a new county. Just a week later a bill was introduced in the Legislature for the establishment of Stark County. This measure contained some features that were not satisfactory to Colonel Henderson, and upon his motion it was laid on the table. On February 7th the bill and proposed amendments were referred to a special committee, which reported it back on the 11th, with the recommendation that it pass, but on the final vote it was defeated.

Then a bill was introduced under the title of "An act to dispose of the territory west of the Illinois River in the County of Putnam, and for other purposes." On February 28, 1839, the Senate reported that it had made several amendments to the bill, one of which provided for the formation of Stark County. The House concurred in the amendments and on March 2, 1839, the council of revision reported approval of the act, which bore the title of "An act for the formation of the County of Stark, and for other purposes."

#### THE ORGANIC ACT

That part of the act relating to Stark County is as follows:

"Section 2. That townships 12 and 13 north, of ranges 5, 6 and 7, east of the Fourth Principal Meridian, shall constitute a new county,



to be called Stark; Provided, however, that townships 12 and 13 of range number 5 east shall not constitute or compose any part of the County of Stark, except upon the condition that a majority of the legal voters in said township shall consent thereto; and to enable the said voters to decide the question and give or withhold their consent, an election shall be held at the house of Henry McClenahan, on the third Monday of March, under the superintendence of Jonathan Hodgson, Esq., Silas Richards, Henry McClenahan and Conrad Emery, who shall act as judges and clerk of said election, and whose duty it shall be to attend at the time and place aforesaid and hold an election. A poll-book shall be opened, with columns in favor of and against being included in the said County of Stark; and the legal voters aforesaid shall be permitted to vote for either proposition. The polls shall be kept open from 9 o'clock A. M. to 5 o'clock P. M.; and upon receiving the votes, the said judges and clerk shall certify the result upon the poll-book, and within five days thereafter deliver said book, certified as aforesaid, to the clerk of the county commissioners' court of Knox County; and said clerk shall, in the presence of two justices of the peace, or two of the county commissioners, open and examine the said poll-book and compare the certificate with the votes given, and thereupon make duplicate certificates of the result of said election, which shall be signed by the clerk and justices or commissioners as aforesaid; and if it shall appear that a majority of said votes are in favor of being included in the County of Stark, the said township shall be included in said county; otherwise said township shall continue to form and constitute a part of the County of Knox. One of the certificates made as aforesaid shall be transmitted to the secretary of state, to be by him filed with the enrolled bill enacting the county; and one shall be entered of record in the county commissioners' court of Knox County; but if the majority of said votes shall be against being included in the said county, the certificates shall be transmitted and recorded as aforesaid, and the boundaries of Stark shall be as fixed in the foregoing section, excluding the townships aforesaid. If the persons herein appointed to act as judges and clerk of said election, or any one of them, shall fail or refuse to act, the voters, when assembled, shall select others to act in their stead, who shall execute this act as though they were named herein. Notice of said election shall be posted up at three places in said township, at least five days preceding said election, by Henry McClenahan."

Section 3 gave to the county commissioners of Stark County the power "to vacate, locate and relocate roads, and to use and exercise exclusive jurisdiction in the premises."

"Section 5. The commissioners of the County of Stark, when elected, shall proceed immediately to demand of the county treasurer of Putnam County the one-sixth part of \$9,870, paid him by the Fund Commissioners, together with 12 per cent per annum upon the one-sixth part of the sum aforesaid; and should the treasurer of the County of Putnam fail promptly to pay over the sum aforesaid, then it is hereby made the duty of the County Commissioners of the County of Stark to bring suit against the treasurer of Putnam County and his sureties for the sum aforesaid, it being \$1,645, together with interest as aforesaid from the time of loaning said money until paid—said sum being hereby appropriated to the County of Stark, to be applied agreeable to the provisions of 'An act to establish and maintain a general system of internal improvement;' provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to release the present commissioners of the County of Putnam from any liability which they may have incurred by illegally authorizing the fund aforesaid to be used for any other object than that for which it was legitimately appropriated.

"Section 7. That the legal voters of the County of Stark shall meet at the house of Elijah McClenahan, Sr., on the first Monday in April next, and proceed to choose their own judges and clerks, who, after being duly sworn, shall proceed to open the polls and hold an election for the purpose of electing county officers. It shall be the duty of Moses Boardman, or, in case of his absence, any justice of the peace within the bounds of said county, to give at least ten days' notice of the time and place of holding said election, and, when said election is over, to give certificates of election to the persons elected county commissioners and make returns to the secretary of state for county officers.

"Section 8. The County Commissioners of the said County of Stark shall meet at the house of Elijah McClenahan, Sr., within ten days after their election, and after being qualified shall proceed to lay off said county into justices' districts and road districts and order elections for all justices of the peace and constables; to levy a tax for all county purposes for the present year, unless the revenue law shall be changed, and to do and perform all the duties required of the county commissioners' courts by law.

"Section 9. The courts of said county shall be held at such place as the county commissioners' court may designate, until a suitable preparation can be made at the county seat; which county seat, when located, shall be called Toulon. Said county shall form a part of the

same judicial circuit with the counties of Putnam and Marshall; and the circuit court shall be held for said county twice in each year at such times as the judge of said circuit may designate.

"Section 10. The qualified voters of the County of Stark, in all elections except county elections, shall vote with the senatorial and representative district composed of the counties of Peoria, Putnam, Bureau and Marshall, until otherwise provided by law, but shall make election returns to the secretary of state in the same manner that is now required by law from the other counties in this state."

Section 12 provides that the school commissioner of Putnam County should turn over to the proper authorities in the County of Stark all money, books, records, etc., pertaining to the schools within the territory comprising the new county.

#### THE FIRST ELECTIONS.

The Legislature having done its part by the passage of the above act, it devolved upon the people of the county to complete the organization. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the organic act, the legal voters living within the limits of the County of Stark met at the house of Elijah McClenahan, Sr., on the first Monday in April, 1839, which was the first day of the month, and proceeded to elect the following officers: Commissioners, Jonathan Hodgson, Stephen Trickle and Calvin Winslow; commissioners' clerk, Oliver Whitaker; sheriff, Augustus A. Dunn; treasurer, Minott Silliman; recorder, Jesse W. Heath; probate judge, William Ogle; surveyor, John W. Agard.

On Thursday, April 4, 1839, the county commissioners met, for the first time, at the house of Mr. McClenahan, where the election was held, and carried out the provisions of the organic act as set forth in Section 8. At the June term the commissioners made provisions for the general election to be held on August 5, 1839, by ordering that each justice's district should be an election precinct, appointing judges of election in each precinct and designating the voting places. In precinct No. 1, Brady Fowler, Nicholas Sturm and M. G. Brace were appointed judges, and the Northern school house named as the voting place. No. 2, James Holgate, Samuel Thomas and Henry Breese, judges; vote at the house of James Holgate. No. 3, Calvin Powell, William W. Webster and Moses Boardman, judges; election at the house of Lewis Finch. No. 4, Conrad Emery, John McWilliams and Israel Stoddard, judges; election to

be held at Theodore F. Hurd's store in Lafayette. No. 5, William Ogle, Adam Perry and Augustus Richards, judges; election at the house of William Henderson.

The election of April, 1839, was for the purpose of electing county officers to serve until the next regular election, which occurred on August 5, 1839. At the August election Oliver Whitaker and Minott Silliman were re-elected clerk and treasurer, respectively; William Ogle succeeded Stephen Trickle on the board of county commissioners; Carson Berfield was chosen surveyor to succeed J. W. Agard; John Miller succeeded William Ogle as probate judge; and B. M. Jackson was elected recorder. The new board of commissioners organized on September 3, 1839, when lots were drawn for the various terms. William Ogle drew the one-year term; Calvin Winslow, two years; and Jonathan Hodgson, three years. The machinery of county government was now permanently established.

#### THE COUNTY SEAT

Although the organic act gave the name of Toulon to the county seat, "when located," no provision was made in the act of March 2, 1839, for its location. On February 27, 1841, an act was passed naming John Dawson, Peter Van Bergen and William F. Elkin, all of the County of Sangamon, to locate the town of Toulon. The act stipulated that the commissioners should meet at "the house of William H. Henderson, in said county, on the second Monday in April, 1841, thereafter, or as soon as might suit their convenience, and being first duly sworn, as by said act required, to discharge faithfully the duties assigned them by said act, should then proceed to locate the said town of Toulon, having due regard in making said location to the present and future population of said County of Stark, the promotion of the general good, the eligibility of the site, and as near as may be, after considering all other provisions of said act, the geographical center of the county."

The commissioners did not meet until in May. Their report, filed with the county commissioners and entered in the records of the county, contains the following:

"And, whereas, said commissioners did on the 17th day of May, 1841, meet at the house of William H. Henderson, in said County of Stark, and did take and subscribe to an oath prescribed by said act, and which said oath is filed in the clerk's office of the county commissioners' court of said County of Stark, and after having

inspected the territory of said county in all things appertaining to the discharge of the duties assigned them by said act above referred to, have located, and do hereby locate, the town of Toulon, the county seat of Stark County, on ninety rods square of land, at present owned by John Miller, of said County of Stark, and known and described as follows, to-wit: It being part of the southwest quarter of Section No. 19, in Township No. 13 north, of Range 6, east of the Fourth Principal Meridian, which said ninety rods square lies twelve rods east and twelve rods north of the west and south boundary lines of said quarter section; upon this condition, however, that the said John Miller execute to the county commissioners in office a good and sufficient deed in fee simple to the said ninety rods square of land."

On July 28, 1841, John Miller and his wife, Mary Ann Miller, executed the required deed and Stark County became possessed of the site of its seat of justice. (For the further history of the Town of Toulon see the chapter on Cities, Towns and Villages.)

#### CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

When Stark County was first organized the transaction of the public business was intrusted to a board of three commissioners. This system was continued until the adoption of the Constitution of 1848, which gave to the several counties of Illinois the privilege of adopting township organization. A majority of the legal voters of Stark County, at the general election in November, 1852, voted in favor of township organization, the inauguration of which changed the executive officials of the county from a board of three commissioners to a board of supervisors, composed of one member from each civil township. The first board of supervisors, as shown by the minutes of September 12, 1853, when they held their first meeting, was made up as follows: Elmira Township, Thomas Lyle; Essex, Lemuel Dixon; Goshen, Lewis H. Fitch; Osceola, Bradford S. Foster; Penn, James Holgate; Toulon, Calvin L. Eastman; Valley, Charles C. Wilson; West Jersey, William W. Webster. The system thus introduced has been continued to the present time.

#### THE COURTHOUSE

For more than two years after the organization of the county, the public business was transacted and the sessions of the Circuit Court were held in private dwellings. Some time in the early part of 1842

a contract was made by the county commissioners with Abel Mott, an elder of the Mormon Church, to erect a courthouse upon the public square in the Town of Toulon. It seems that Mr. Mott failed to carry out his part of the agreement to the satisfaction of the board of commissioners, as the records show that Cyril Ward, John Shores and J. H. Wilber were appointed to arbitrate the differences or misunderstandings between the contracting parties. On January 20, 1843, after the arbitrators had rendered their decision and made their report, the commissioners ordered "that the treasurer pay to Abel Mott the sum of \$360.36, to be paid out of the notes given for the sale of lots in the Town of Toulon, it being a balance due him in full for building said courthouse in said town."

On March 8, 1843, Minott Silliman, the treasurer of Stark County, filed a claim for \$21.75 for commission on \$1,087.25 worth of notes taken in payment for lots in the Town of Toulon and turned over to Abel Mott since March 10, 1842. The sum represented by these notes was probably somewhere near the cost of Stark County's first courthouse, so far as the contractor was concerned. There were some extra charges, however, as shown by the minutes of the commissioners' court. Notice was given by the board on September 7, 1842, that a contract would be let on the 20th of October "to underpin the courthouse with stone in a good and workmanlike manner, payable either in notes of the sales of lots in the Town of Toulon, or State Bank of Illinois paper."

At the same time W. T. Vandever was appointed agent of the county to award the contract and oversee the work "to the best advantage for said county." For some reason the contract was not let at the appointed time, for on July 3, 1843, the bid of Calvin Powell, of \$74.00, for underpinning the courthouse, was accepted by the board, the work to be completed by the first Monday in September. On the same date the commissioners made a private agreement with Minott Silliman, by which the latter was to "build six chimneys for stove pipes in the courthouse," for the sum of \$33.50, the chimneys to be finished by the first Monday in September.

The old frame courthouse continued in use for nearly fifteen years before any agitation was started in favor of a new one. On September 10, 1856, John Berfield, Henry Breese and C. M. S. Lyons were appointed a committee "to visit Lacon, in Marshall County, and obtain a full description of the courthouse at that place—its size, the material of which it is constructed, its cost and manner of construction—together with such drafts, models, plats, etc., of said



building, or such other plats as they may deem expedient; to consult with experienced builders, and to make such other arrangements preparatory to building a new courthouse as they may think necessary and report to this board at its next meeting."

The committee reported on October 11, 1856, and with the report submitted plans and specifications for a new courthouse. The report and plans were accepted and approved by the board and the committee was discharged as a committee of inquiry and investigation, but the same men were immediately appointed a building committee, with instructions to advertise for bids and report progress at the next meeting. On December 9, 1856, the committee reported that three sealed proposals for the erection of the courthouse had been received, to-wit:

Thomas B. Starrett and Edward Nixon.....	\$12,700
Stephen M. Fisher.....	10,500
Parker C. Spaulding.....	8,300

The bid of Mr. Spaulding, whose home was in Knoxville, Ill., was accepted, but before the contract was entered into he came forward with the complaint that the advertisement, upon which he had based his estimate, stated that the building was to be fifty-six feet in length, while the plans and specifications called for a building sixty-four feet long. He therefore asked the board to permit him to add \$1,185 to his original bid, which was granted, his figures then being more than one thousand dollars below those of the next lowest bidder. A contract was then made with Mr. Spaulding, in which he agreed to furnish all materials and labor necessary to complete the courthouse for \$9,485. This contract was dated December 23, 1856, and Mr. Spaulding agreed to have the building completed by the first day of December, 1857.

Before the courthouse was more than half done the contractor assigned to Elias Spaulding, who failed to finish the building within the stipulated time. On December 9, 1857, the county clerk was directed to issue an order on the county treasurer for \$1,000, due February 15, 1858, the last payment to Elias Spaulding for building the courthouse. The contractor was allowed \$104.68 for extra work, and some other extras added by the board amounted to about fifty dollars.

On August 4, 1857, it was ordered by the supervisors that the clerk advertise and sell the old courthouse at auction on the first day of the October term of court, the purchaser to remove the building



from the public square within thirty days after the sale. The house was bought by Jefferson Cooley, who removed it to the east end of his hotel lot, on the northwest corner of Main and Miller streets, where it was used for years as a livery barn. It was then sold to M. B. Downend, who removed it to his farm a short distance east of Toulon and converted it into a cattle shed.

#### THE ANNEX

The fireproof building, immediately west of the courthouse, which for want of a better name is here called the annex, was erected for the purposes of obtaining more room for the transaction of county business and providing a safe depository for the public records. It had its inception on September 12, 1883, when James H. Quinn, the supervisor from Goshen Township, offered the following preamble and resolution:

"Whereas, it is the duty of the board of supervisors to provide necessary buildings and suitable fireproof safes or offices to keep and properly protect the records of the county, and

"Whereas, the present buildings and offices of Stark County, Illinois, are entirely inadequate for that purpose, both as to capacity and protection from fire, and each property holder in the county, as well as each one who is affected by the records of the county, is without such protection as an ordinarily thoughtful and prudent man would provide for his own private interests, and

"Whereas, the finances of the county are such that we can and should immediately make such provision as we are required by law, and in duty bound to do by the obligation of the oath of our office; it is therefore

"Resolved by this board, and we do hereby appropriate the sum of \$6,000 for the purpose of building a suitable fireproof structure for offices and for the records of said county, said offices to be built on the courthouse square in the Village of Toulon, in said county, and we do further direct that the said sum of money be levied and extended upon the tax books of the respective townships that are now being prepared for the taxes assessed for the year 1883."

Upon the roll being called, the supervisors from Goshen, Elmira, Toulon and West Jersey townships voted aye; and those from Essex, Osceola, Penn and Valley voted no. The result being a tie vote, the resolution was declared lost. The next day Mr. Quinn, not willing to accept defeat, presented another resolution to appropriate \$6,000

for a fireproof building, provided: "That the sum of \$2,000 be raised by the citizens of the said Village of Toulon and appropriated by them to aid in the erection and construction of said fireproof building, in addition to the above named sum of \$6,000."

After some discussion this resolution was laid on the table and no further action in the matter was taken until the following spring. On April 29, 1884, the resolution was taken from the table and upon the final vote was rejected. Robert Armstrong, the member of the board from Elmira Township, then offered a resolution similar in character to that of Mr. Quinn, except that the amount to be appropriated was left blank, to be filled in after the cost of such a building was ascertained, and the people of Toulon were not required to appropriate any part of the cost of said building. Mr. Armstrong and William P. Caverly were appointed a committee to procure plans, specifications and estimates and report at the next meeting of the board.

On May 27, 1884, they reported that they had employed Charles Ulicson, an architect of Peoria, to make plans, which were submitted to and approved by the board. The next day, on motion of J. S. Atherton, the sum of \$7,500 was appropriated for the building and W. P. Caverly, of Toulon, Robert Armstrong, of Elmira, and John Jordan, of Essex, were appointed a building committee. Bids were advertised for and were opened on July 14, 1884. The contract was awarded to John Volk & Company, of Rock Island, for \$7,414, and W. P. Caverly was appointed to oversee the erection of the building. In this fireproof structure are the offices of the recorder, surveyor, county and circuit clerks.

#### THE COUNTY JAIL

A careful search through the records fails to reveal just when and how the first jail in Stark County was built. For several years after the organization of the county prisoners were kept in the jails of some of the adjacent counties. On September 8, 1846, the county commissioners ordered the treasurer to pay to the treasurer of Marshall County the sum of \$134.63 "for keeping, boarding and guarding Josiah Kemp and Robert Brown," etc.

The next entry in the commissioners' record relating to a jail is found in the minutes of September 3, 1849, when the following warrants were drawn on the county treasury for labor or material used in building a fence around the jail lot at the southwest corner of

Franklin and Jefferson streets, opposite the public square: Alexander Abel, \$10.62; Jacob Holgate, \$8.50; David Winter, \$5.25; John A. Williams (for self and boy), \$10.00; Henry White, \$10.50, making a total allowance of \$44.87 for the fence.

Just a year later—September 3, 1850—the clerk was ordered “to make out and transmit to the clerk of Knox County so much of the record as may be necessary to exhibit the amount paid by the County of Stark for expenses incurred by Washington Stair, a prisoner in the Stark County jail on change of venue from said County of Knox,” etc.

From these three entries it may be seen that the jail was built some time between the years 1846 and 1850—probably in 1849, at the time the lot was fenced. It was a brick building, the jail proper being on the first floor, while upstairs were living rooms for the jailer and his family. The brick walls of the lower story were reinforced by a lining of heavy timbers, studded with nails, but even this precaution was not sufficient to prevent prisoners from working their way to liberty when they were so inclined. There was at least one jail delivery that is still remembered by old settlers.

It was a sort of open secret that “Uncle” John Culbertson was in the habit of keeping a considerable sum of money about his house. One Sunday morning, while Mr. Culbertson and his family were attending church, four men broke into the house and ransacked until they found at least a portion of the gold and silver coin, which they divided into four shares and concealed the money in hollow trees near Toulon. There was a slight snow on the ground, and when Mr. Culbertson returned from church and saw what had happened he raised the alarm. The neighbors soon gathered and had no difficulty in tracking the housebreakers into the woods, where three parcels of the money were recovered. The men were afterward arrested and confined in the old jail, where they kept up a noise every night, singing, hallooing, etc., to prevent the sheriff from hearing their efforts to break through the wall. The only heat in the cell room was furnished by a stove. Heating the poker in the stove, the prisoners used it to burn out a section of the timber, hanging their clothes over the place during the day so that their work would not be discovered. After the timber was burned away they pounded a hole through the brick wall—singing and yelling all the time as usual—and made a dash for freedom. Their escape was soon discovered, however, and a pursuit instituted that resulted in the recapture of the fugitives. The Civil war was on at the time and they were given the opportunity of enlisting,



COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE, TOULON

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instead of spending a term in prison. They accepted the alternative and entered the army.

In December, 1865, the sheriff was directed to ascertain the cost of two iron cells for the jail. The following March John M. Brown, then sheriff, reported that two cells would cost \$1,150, but the board of supervisors decided that it was too much money to spend on a jail that had about outlived its usefulness and the cells were not installed. No movement for the erection of a new jail was made for nearly thirty years after that date, notwithstanding that every grand jury for the greater part of that period condemned the jail as unsafe and unsanitary. On March 1, 1895, Sheriff Donald Murchison submitted to the board of supervisors the following report:

"To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Stark County, Illinois:

"Gentlemen:—The statute, Chapter 75, Section 12, makes it the duty of the sheriff, from time to time, to report to the board the condition of the county jail, and the fact that the board may, in some measure at least, be acquainted with the condition of the jail does not relieve the sheriff from the duty of making such a report, or of the responsibility which would attach to his failure to make known to the board the condition of the jail. Therefore, I would report to your honorable board:

"First—That the jail is in such a condition that it would be considered unfit for the confinement of brute beasts, much less a fit place for the confinement of human beings. It is a pure impossibility either to ventilate or light (except with artificial light) the miserable den.

"Second—It is in such a condition that it is utterly impossible to confine and keep prisoners safely within its walls.

"Third—It is in such a condition that it is wholly lacking in facilities for handling prisoners with safety.

"Fourth—There is only one apartment or cell for all classes of prisoners, whereas, the statute, Chapter 75, Section 11, forbids the confining of men and women together, and minors with notorious offenders in the same room. I would therefore urge on the board the necessity of at once making such repairs and improvements on the jail as will afford proper light and ventilation, and such as will insure, at least to a reasonable degree, the safe keeping and handling of prisoners. Also, to provide such apartments as will enable the jailer to comply with the statute in keeping the various classes of prisoners apart as above set forth. The roof leaks badly and needs repairing. All of which is respectfully submitted.

"DONALD MURCHISON, Sheriff."

The board took the sheriff's report under advisement and after examining the jail decided that Mr. Murchison's caustic criticisms were not without foundation. On May 2, 1895, the chairman of the board was instructed to procure plans and estimates for a new jail and report at the next meeting.

On July 3, 1895, it was "moved and seconded that the supervisors build a jail for Stark County, not to exceed the cost of \$8,000, provided they can sell the west eighty acres of land belonging to the poor farm, at not less than \$80 per acre, and apply the proceeds as part payment on said jail."

On the same date the clerk was ordered to advertise for bids on the west eighty acres of the poor farm and on the old jail lot, and also for bids for the construction of a new jail until 10 o'clock A. M., August 6, 1895. When the bids were opened it was found that the Champion Iron Works had submitted the best proposition, offering to build the jail complete for \$7,200, and that concern was awarded the contract. All bids on the eighty acres of land were rejected and the board levied a tax that would net \$8,000 for the construction of the jail. The southwest corner of the public square was selected as the location and John P. Williams was employed to superintend the building of the jail. It was completed in March, 1896. With the new jail, which includes a residence for the sheriff, Stark County can claim to be as well provided in this respect as any county of its class in the State of Illinois.

#### THE POOR FARM

Concerning the first poorhouse, or poor farm, in Stark County, Mrs. Shallenberger, on page 82 of her history, says: "The first county poorhouse was located a little northeast of Toulon, on what was long familiarly known as 'Adam Perry's place;' indeed the house was but the old residence enlarged and adapted in various ways to its new duties. But this being deemed insufficient to meet the demands liable to be made by the increase of paupers as the county grew in years and numbers, it was decided in 1868 to buy a larger farm, farther from town, and to erect upon it a good, substantial and commodious poorhouse. Accordingly a tract of land described as the northeast quarter of Section 12, Township 12 north, Range 5 east, in Stark County, was purchased from Mr. Davis Lowman, at a cost of about eight thousand dollars, and early in the following year preparations for building began—the committee in charge being C. M. S. Lyons, J. H. Quinn and H. Shivers.



"The old buildings were sold, the old farm platted and sold in small lots, and the contract for the new building let to William Caverly for the sum of \$16,000. This was considered by some an unnecessary expense, considering the small number of our paupers, and the project met with some opposition and a good deal of ridicule."

The poorhouse erected in 1868 was destroyed by fire in the early part of December, 1886, and a few days later Edward Colgan, chairman of the board of supervisors, was authorized to "make, sign and execute proofs of loss," etc., in order to obtain the indemnity from the insurance companies—\$2,500 in each of two companies. Some of the citizens of the county advocated the purchase of a new farm and the board appointed a committee to examine farms, ascertain the prices at which they could be purchased and report. Several farms were examined by the committee, but upon final consideration of the matter the board decided to retain the farm already owned by the county, and on January 18, 1887, appointed John F. Rhodes, John W. Smith and John Hazen a committee to build a new poorhouse on the old foundation walls according to plans made by John Hawks. On February 18, 1887, the building committee entered into a contract with Ira F. Hayden to erect the new poorhouse for \$6,909, and some additional expense was incurred in repairing the foundation walls where they had been injured by the fire, making the total cost of the building a little over seven thousand dollars. It was completed and accepted by the board on September 14, 1887, has been kept in good repair and is still in use.

#### HOW THE COUNTY WAS NAMED

In the early part of this chapter is given an account of the effort to establish Coffee County in the legislative session of 1836-37, as taken from Mrs. Shallenberger's work on Stark County. The same author says, regarding the name of Stark County: "To whose taste this name was due is sometimes a matter of curiosity among our people, who had formerly suggested 'Coffee.' There is no means of ascertaining this to a certainty now, and it is a matter of small importance, but the writer is well convinced that the name was a politic concession on the part of Colonel Henderson to the wishes of his constituents from Vermont, many of whom lived about Osceola Grove, and who also urged Bennington as a suitable name for the county seat."

John Stark, in whose honor the county was named, was a native

of New Hampshire, where he was born on August 28, 1728, of Irish parents, who came to America some ten years before. He served with distinction in the colonial army during the Revolutionary war and was a member of the council that arranged the terms of General Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga. With seventy-one Irishmen in his command, he was at the battle of Bunker Hill, and it is said he was the officer who first gave the command: "Hold your fire, boys, till you see the whites of their eyes," a policy that carried death and defeat to the forces of General Howe. On another occasion, at the beginning of an engagement, he urged his men forward by saying: "We must win today, or tonight Molly Stark is a widow." While it may have been a source of some regret to Colonel Henderson that the county was not named after his old military commander, it was named for a hero who was no less illustrious.

## CHAPTER VII

### TOWNSHIP HISTORY

ORIGIN OF THE TOWNSHIP—FIRST TOWNSHIPS IN THE UNITED STATES — JUSTICES' DISTRICTS IN STARK COUNTY—ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL TOWNSHIPS IN 1853—ELMIRA—ESSEX—GOSHEN—OSCEOLA—PENN —TOULON—VALLEY—WEST JERSEY—MILITARY LAND ENTRIES IN EACH—HOW THE TOWNSHIPS WERE NAMED—EARLY SETTLERS — PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS—RAILROADS—SCHOOLS—POPULATION AND WEALTH.

The township as a subordinate civic division originated in England in Anglo-Saxon times and was called the "tunscipe." It was the political unit of popular expression, which took the form of a mass convention or popular assembly called the "tun moot." The chief executive of the tunscipe was the "tun reeve," who, with the parish priest and four lay delegates, represented the tunscipe in the shire meeting. Says Fiske: "About 871 A. D. King Alfred instituted a small territorial subdivision nearest in character to and probably containing the germ of the American township."

In the settlement of New England the colonies there were first governed by a general court, or legislature, composed of the governor and a small council, generally made up of the most influential citizens. The general court was also a judicial body, deciding both civil and criminal causes. In March, 1635, the General Court of Massachusetts passed the following ordinance:

"Whereas, particular towns have many things that concern only themselves, and the ordering of their own affairs and disposing of business in their own town, therefore, the freemen of every town, or a majority of them, shall have the power to dispose of their own lands and woods, and all the appurtenances of said towns; to grant lots, and to make such orders as may concern the well ordering of their own towns, not repugnant to the laws and orders established by the General Court.

"Said freemen, or a majority of them, shall also have power to choose their own particular officers, such as constables, petty magis-

trates, surveyors for the highways, and may impose fines for violation of rules established by the freemen of the town; provided that such fines shall in no single case exceed twenty shillings."

That was the beginning of the township system in the United States. Connecticut followed with a similar provision regarding local self government, and from New England the system was carried to the new states of the Middle West.

In the southern colonies the county was made the political unit. Eight counties were organized in Virginia in 1634 and the system spread to the other colonies, except in South Carolina the counties are called districts and in Louisiana, parishes. The Illinois country became a county of Virginia after the conquest by George Rogers Clark in 1778.

The first provision for a civil township northwest of the Ohio River was made by Governor St. Clair and the judges of the Northwest Territory in 1790. The term "civil township" is here used to distinguish the township with local officers from the Congressional township of the Government survey. The latter is always six miles square, but the civil township varies in size and its boundaries are often marked by natural features, such as creeks, rivers, etc.

In New England the township is still far more important in local matters than the county. The town meeting, which is the successor of the old "tun moot" of Anglo-Saxon days, wields great influence in such matters as the levying of local taxes, appropriating funds and issuing bonds for public improvements within the township limits. In the South the township is little more than name, all the local business being transacted by the county authorities. Throughout the great Middle West there is a well balanced combination of the two systems, schools and roads being usually in charge of township officials, while business that affects more than one civil township is handled by the county.

When Illinois was first admitted into the Union as a state, no provision was made in its constitution for the introduction of a township organization. This idea may have been inherited from its old county organization, first established in 1778, while the territory comprising the state was claimed by Virginia. The nearest approach to the civil township was the "justice's district." Section 8 of the act of March 2, 1839, organizing the County of Stark, provides that the county commissioners, as soon as elected, or within ten days, "shall proceed to lay off said county into justices' districts," etc.

Pursuant to this provision, on Thursday, April 4, 1839, the county

commissioners—Calvin Winslow, Jonathan Hodgson and Stephen Trickle—established the following justices' districts:

1. Township 14, Ranges 6 and 7. (This district included the present townships of Elmira and Osceola.)

2. "To commence at the northeast corner of Township 13, Range 7; thence west to the northwest corner of Section 3, Township 13, Range 6; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 34; thence east to the southwest corner of Section 35; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 35, Township 12, Range 6; thence east to the southeast corner of Township 12, Range 7, and thence north to the place of beginning." (As thus established No. 2 contained the present townships of Penn and Valley and practically the east half of Toulon and Essex.)

3. "Beginning at the southwest corner of Township 12, Range 5; thence east to the southwest corner of Section 35, Township 12, Range 6; thence north to the southwest corner of Section 11; thence west to the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 12, Range 5; thence south to the place of beginning." (This district included a strip four miles wide and ten miles long in the southwest corner of the county.)

4. "Beginning at the northwest corner of Township 13, Range 5; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 12, Range 5; thence east to the southeast corner of Section 10; thence north to the northeast of Section 3, Township 13, Range 5; thence west to the place of beginning." (No. 4 contained thirty-two square miles, including the western two-thirds of Goshen Township and eight sections in the northwest part of West Jersey.)

5. "Beginning at the northeast corner of Section 4, Township 13, Range 6; thence west to the northwest corner of Section 2, Township 13, Range 5; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 11, Township 12, Range 5; thence east to the southeast corner of Section 3; thence west to the northwest corner of Section 3; thence north to the place of beginning." (This district included all that part of the county not contained in the other districts, to-wit: The west half of the present Township of Toulon; eight sections in the northwest corner of Essex Township, a strip two miles wide off the east side of Goshen Township, and four sections in the northeast corner of West Jersey Township.)

Assessors were appointed for the several districts as follows: No. 1, Isaac Spence; No. 2, John W. Agard; No. 3, J. H. Barnett; No. 4, Silas Richards; No. 5, Adam Perry.

On March 3, 1840, the board of county commissioners ordered that each of the justices' districts be made an election precinct and names were adopted instead of numbers. District No. 1 became Osceola precinct; No. 2, Wyoming; No. 3, Massillon; No. 4, Lafayette, and No. 5, Central.

Section 6, Article 7, of the Constitution of 1848 reads as follows: "The legislature shall provide by law that the legal voters of any county in the state may adopt a township form of government within the county, by a majority of the votes cast at any general election within such county."

In accordance with this constitutional provision, the General Assembly passed an act on February 12, 1849, authorizing the various counties of the state to vote on the question of adopting a township organization. In Stark County the question was voted upon at the general election held on Tuesday, November 2, 1852. The total number of votes cast at that election was 774, of which 443 were in favor of the adoption of a township form of government and 173 were opposed, 158 voters not expressing themselves upon the question. The records of the commissioners' court for Monday, December 6, 1852, contains the following entry:

"And it appearing to the court that a majority of all the votes cast at said election were in favor of township organization, it is therefore ordered by the court that Theodore F. Hurd, Henry Breese and Calvin L. Eastman be, and they are hereby appointed, commissioners to divide the county into towns or townships as required by law."

Commissions were issued to these three men December 13, 1852. They met at the courthouse in Toulon on Monday, January 3, 1853, and divided the county into eight townships. On March 7, 1853, they filed their report with the commissioners and it was made a matter of record. The townships as then established have never been changed, to-wit: Elmira Township includes Township 14, Range 6; Essex, Township 12, Range 6; Goshen, Township 13, Range 5; Osceola, Township 14, Range 7; Penn, Township 13, Range 7; Toulon, Township 13, Range 6; Valley, Township 12, Range 7; West Jersey, Township 12, Range 5.

#### ELMIRA TOWNSHIP

This township is one of the northern tier. It embraces Congressional Township 14, Range 6, and therefore has an area of thirty-six

square miles. On the north it is bounded by Bureau County; on the east by Osecola Township; on the south by Toulon Township, and on the west by the County of Henry. The surface is generally level or gently undulating and is well watered. The west fork of the Spoon River flows diagonally across the township from northwest to southeast; Jack Creek touches the southwest corner, and there are a few minor streams. The soil is fertile and some of the finest farms in the county are in this township. Originally there was some native timber along the water courses and artificial groves have been planted around some of the houses upon the prairie. The township has some valuable coal deposits, but they have never been fully developed.

In a preceding chapter mention was made of the land warrants filed on Stark County lands by veterans of the War of 1812. During the years 1817-18 more than three score military claims were filed upon lands in what is now Elmira Township. Godfrey Reemer located a claim in Section 1; James Thomas, Robert Hall, A. F. Spencer and William Shepherd, Section 3; Reuben Close, Section 4; John Hughes and Charles Armstrong, Section 5; William Walsh, Section 6; John Fleming, Section 7; David Armstead and A. O. Smith, Section 8; John Martin and Henry Atkins, Section 9; James Patterson, Richard Gates, Charles Smith and Frederick Jenkins, Section 11; Richard Howard, Henry Shannon, Moses Sears and Ephraim Small, Section 13; Michael Conway, Aaron Burbank and two men named Roberts and Stenhert, Section 17; Daniel Gaskel, Section 19; Isaac Smith, Section 20; William Thompson, John Barnett, Section 21; Elias Hughes, Section 22; Malbry Palmer and John Potter, Section 23; John Jones, Section 24; Benjamin Barrett, Thomas McFadden and John Wood, Section 26; James D. Wells, John Crowell and Henry Davenport, Section 27; Bela Dexter, Section 28; Francis Lincoln, James Tiner and Bird Lavender, Section 29; Bradford Willis and Stephen Benjamin, Section 30; Charles Board and Henry Cruser, Section 31; John Timberlake and W. S. Tompkins, Section 32; Timothy Weston, Lewis Bronson and John Whitlock, Section 33; Robert Goodwin and Lewis Green, Section 34; Richard Scott, John Davis, John Giers and Seward Walters, Section 35; James Joyce, Conrad Sarr, William Sears and H. Edwards, Section 36.

The first settlement in the township was not made, however, until in December, 1835. Maj. Robert Moore, who conducted a ferry across the Illinois River at Peoria, had obtained a map showing which lands had been patented under the military bounty act and which were



subject to entry. His object was to encourage immigration to that part of the county, with a view to building up a town, of which he was to be the proprietor. In December, 1835, he led thither a party of prospective settlers, among whom were James Buswell, Isaac Spencer, Thomas Watts, Giles A. Dana and the Pratts, all from Vermont. They selected lands and began the work of establishing their homes upon the frontier. The following June came William Hall and his wife, Robert and Mary Hall, Archibald and Charles Vandyke, Myrtle G. Brace, E. S. Brodhead and several members of a family named Davis. The first of the Sturms family had located at Seeley's Point as early as 1834. Other members of the family came later and located claims along the south side of Osceola Grove, in what is now Elmira Township. Mrs. Shallenberger describes the Sturms as "regular frontiersmen, every one 'mighty hunters;' of tall stature, combining strength and activity in an unusual degree. Wearing an Indian garb of fringed buckskins, their feet encased in moccasins, with bowie knife in the belt and rifle on the shoulder; no wonder many a newcomer started from them in affright, supposing they had encountered genuine 'scalpers.' But these men were by no means as savage as they seemed, but had hearts to which friend or stranger never appealed in vain."

On June 17, 1837, the Turnbull and Oliver families left their "Bonnie Scotland" to seek homes in America. After a voyage of six weeks they reached Quebec, and nearly six weeks more were consumed in the journey to Chicago. From there they went to Joliet, where they found two vacant cabins, which they were permitted to occupy, the settlers there showing them every kindness. But they were anxious to enter lands of their own. At Joliet they met a man named Parker, who owned a quarter section of land in what is now Stark County, and John Turnbull set out on foot to meet Parker at Wyoming, his intention being to purchase the land. He did not buy Parker's land, however, but, after looking around through the new settlement, purchased forty acres from John and Thomas Lyle, in Osceola Grove, upon which there was a small cabin, with the understanding that if Mr. Oliver came on the Lyles would sell him the adjoining forty acres. On February 14, 1838, John Turnbull and Andrew Oliver, with their families, took possession of their new purchases. That was the beginning of the "Scotch Colony" in Elmira. Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "The four families, consisting of eight Lyles and thirteen of the Turnbulls and Olivers, contrived to live until spring opened, in one room, and that one 16 by 18 feet. That they

succeeded in doing this harmoniously, so that the survivors can now look back through the mists of nearly forty years, and make merry over the experiences of that first winter in Osceola, is creditable to all concerned."

Letters from the Turnbulls and Olivers to friends and relatives in Scotland soon brought others from that country, and the Murrays, the Grieves, the Armstrongs, the McDonalds, McRaes, Murchisons, Finlaysons and McLennans joined the Scottish settlement in Stark County. They patiently endured the hardships and inconveniences of frontier civilization, and with that industry and determination that have always been such dominant characteristics of the Scotch people they built up a neighborhood that is remarkable for its thrift and independence.

In 1837 a postoffice was established where the village of Osceola is now situated. It was named "Elmira" by Oliver Whitaker, after his old home in New York, and when township organization went into effect in 1853 the name was conferred on the township.

The population of the township in 1910, according to the United States census, was 884, and in 1914 the property was appraised at \$758,198 for taxation—a valuation of over eight hundred dollars for each man, woman and child residing in the township. Elmira has seven schoolhouses, valued at \$10,600, and employs nine teachers in the public schools.

#### ESSEX TOWNSHIP

Essex is the middle township of the southern tier and includes Congressional Township 12, Range 6. It is bounded on the north by Toulon Township; on the east by Valley; on the south by Peoria County, and on the west by the Township of West Jersey. The Spoon River enters from the north about two miles west of the north-east corner and flows in a southerly direction across the township, and the western part is watered by Indian Creek, which forms a junction with Spoon River in Section 33. In the southeastern part Camping Run and Mud Run flow westwardly through a small section of Essex, their waters finally mingling with those of the Spoon River. Along the streams the surface is slightly broken, but by far the greater part of the township consists of a gently undulating surface, with a fertile soil, and there is very little waste land.

This township was named for Isaac Essex, the first white settler in what is now Stark County. Prior to the inauguration of the township system in 1853, this portion of the county was known as Massillon

Precinct. Between the years 1817 and 1820 land entries were made in this township under the old Military Bounty Act as follows:

Section 1, William Ely and John Trask; Section 2, John McCloud and Abram Walton; Section 3, Aaron Graham and John Newkirk; Section 4, Joseph Cox, Peter Lawrence and Ralph Tucker; Section 6, William Lloyd and James McCray; Section 7, John Meeks; Section 8, Gardner Herring and Gilman Smith; Section 9, Nathan Bennett, Jarville Chaffee, John A. Newhall and James Zings; Section 10, Benjamin Davis, Robert King, John B. McKenny and John Wortsbough; Section 11, Tryon Fuller, Solomon Libby, John Odam and Joseph Wright; Section 12, Roswell Post, Harvey Sperry and Joseph Woodmansee; Section 13, John H. Martin, James Reed, James Selah and J. H. Winney; Section 14, John Baptiste, Benjamin Lovell and John Lovell; Section 15, John Bruce and Rufus Stanley; Section 17, Samuel Banner, George Blanchard, Aaron Scott and Joseph Elliott; Section 18, Thomas Hamilton and Jacob House; Section 19, John Union and George W. Woods; Section 20, Thomas Briggs and Jacob Yost; Section 21, Henry Harmon, Cornelius Overlock, Abram Parker and Abram Prior; Section 22, Timothy Green and John Miller; Section 23, Taylor Hardin, John Murray, D. A. Myers and Israel D. Towle; Section 24, David Bell, Charles Cain and Henry Smith; Section 25, Michael Colebrough, Herman Fisher, Edward Keough and Jeffrey Worthington; Section 26, John Francis, Abraham Lucky, George Miller and Amos L. Smith; Section 27, Orra Bardsley, J. V. Feagles, George Phipps and Peter Pilgrim; Section 28, John McLaughlin, Joseph Lutz and Samuel Little; Section 29, Edmund Deady and John Dickaman; Section 30, Abraham Birch and Jeremiah Hillers; Section 31, William Hollings, Joshua Nelson and Tyre Nelson; Section 33, Charles Austin, James Coleman and Thomas Merritt; Section 34, John J. Dunbar, Silas Hodson, Ezra Hutchings and Consider Yeames; Section 35, John Hyatt, Charles Maynard, Francis Morrow and Reuben Rowe; Section 36, Richard Ford, Charles Frost, William Goodman and Andrew Gott.

Most of these entries were for a quarter section each, hence it will be seen that more than fifteen thousand acres of the land in Essex Township were claimed on land warrants by the veterans of the War of 1812. A few of the claimants afterward became actual settlers, but the greater number sold their titles, which caused considerable trouble to those who came in later years.

Isaac Essex, the original Stark County pioneer, located upon the south half of the northeast quarter of Section 15, a short distance

west of the Spoon River, about two miles south and one mile west of the present city of Wyoming. Here he built his cabin in the spring of 1829, cleared a few acres of ground, and raised that year the first crop ever grown by civilized man in Stark County. Compared with present day conditions it was not much of a crop, but it marked the beginning.

In the fall of 1829 John B. Dodge located a claim and built a cabin in Section 14, directly east of Isaac Essex. His cabin was the second house in the county. The following spring Benjamin Smith, Dodge's father-in-law, settled in Section 14. His son, Greenleaf Smith, came a little later and located in the same neighborhood. The three cabins of Essex, Dodge and Smith constituted the only habitations in the county at the close of the year 1830. In 1831 came William D. Grant, Thomas Essex, David Cooper, John E. Owings (who occupied the cabin built by Dodge), Sewell and William P. Smith, and a few others, all of whom settled in what is now Essex Township.

An election was held at the house of Benjamin Smith in August, 1831, when John E. Owings was elected justice of the peace. He held the office until in 1834, when he sold out to Moses Boardman and removed to Canton, Fulton County.

Between the years 1831 and 1835 a number of immigrants came in and established homes within the present township limits. Among them were the Leeks, father and son, who came from Tazewell County early in 1832 and built a saw and grist mill on the Spoon River, a short distance southwest of where Wyoming now stands. The mill was washed away by a flood about four years later, but while it stood it was a great convenience to the settlers. Samuel Merrill settled in the northwestern part of the township, about a mile south of the City of Toulon, and a little farther south was the house of Elijah McClenahan, Sr., where the first election was held after Stark County was created by the act of March 2, 1839. Stephen Worley settled south of McClenahan and in 1834 Thomas Winn came from Indiana and built a cabin in Section 16.

Jarville Chaffee, who laid claim to a part of Section 9 under the Military Bounty Act in 1818, came from Michigan in May, 1834, and stopped with one of the settlers until he could build a house of his own. Concerning that house, Leeson's History of Stark County says: "Thinking to get up something extra he split the logs, white-washed the inside, and had an upstairs reached by a ladder."

To Essex Township belongs the distinction of being the site of the first postoffice and the first schoolhouse in Stark County. A

weekly mail route was established from Springfield, via Peoria, to Galena in 1833 and the same year an office was opened in the "Essex Settlement," with Isaac B. Essex as postmaster. The neighbors took turns in bringing the mail from the "office under the bluff" in Peoria County. Mrs. Shallenberger says: "The office was an old boot box, set upon pins driven into the wall, high and dry, and above the reach of the children in the cabin of Mr. Essex. In 1833 only two newspapers were taken in the county—one by Mr. Essex and the other by Benjamin Smith. At this date two weeks were required to get a paper from Springfield, and a proportionately longer time to get intelligence from Washington or the East." The office was at first called Essex, but after the Town of Wyoming began to grow it was removed to that place and the name changed to Wyoming.

By the act of March 1, 1833, Isaac B. Essex was appointed commissioner of the school fund in his settlement and authorized to sell section 16. The section was sold on February 4, 1834, for \$968.70. Madison Winn, in a paper read before the meeting of the Old Settlers' Association in 1886, says:

"On the fourth day of July, 1834, the people came together for the purpose of building a schoolhouse. The site chosen was near the northeast corner of section 15, in Essex Township. The building was planned to be twenty feet square and all went to work with a will, some cutting, some hanting, some making clapboards and others building. By noon it was built up waist high, and there coming a shower we arranged the clapboards over the wall and underneath ate our Fourth of July dinner. The first day the walls were built up to the roof, which was soon covered, and from Leek's Mill slabs were brought for seats. A post was driven into the ground and a slab laid on it for a teacher's desk, while mother earth was the floor. Adam Perry commenced school about July 15th, with about thirty scholars, out of which number I am the only one living."

From that humble beginning the school system of Essex has developed until in 1914 the township had ten public school buildings, valued at \$26,750, and employed sixteen teachers. One of the school buildings is in the City of Wyoming.

Two lines of railway—the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy—furnish transportation to the people living east of the Spoon River, the stations being Duncan and Wyoming, and those living in the northwestern part of the township find their railroad accommodations at Toulon.

The population of Essex Township in 1910 was 1,131, which in-

cluded the Third Ward of the City of Wyoming, and in 1914 the property was valued for tax purposes at \$872,440.

## GOSHEN TOWNSHIP

Congressional township 13, range 5, prior to the introduction of the township system in 1853, was known as "Lafayette Precinct." In that year it was organized as a civil township and was named "Goshen," because a number of the early settlers in that part of the county came from the Town of Goshen, Clermont County, Ohio. It is bounded on the north by Henry County; on the east by Toulon Township; on the south by the Township of West Jersey, and on the west by Knox County. The surface is generally level or slightly rolling, well drained by Indian Creek and its tributaries in the eastern part and by Walnut Creek in the southwest. There is some prairie land in the township and the Walnut Creek Valley is one of the most fertile portions of the county.

Probably owing to the fact that this part of the county was inhabited by Indians for several years after the War of 1812, fewer entries of land were made by soldiers in Goshen than in the other townships of Stark County. Consequently the early settlers here were not subjected to the uncertainty of titles that attached to many other parts of the military tract. Among those who entered lands under the provisions of the Military Bounty Act were:

Daniel Shattuck, E. B. Ware and James Ware, section 1; Isaac Bingham, Elisha Courtney and Rubell Parrish, section 2; Isaac Foster, section 7; Alexander Frazier and Francis Tibbins, section 11; Jesse Bradbury, Daniel Hand and James Matthews, section 12; George Newton and Henry Webb, section 13; John Foster, section 24; Solomon Dodd and Herman Johnson, section 25; Jonas Wittiford, section 35; Matthew Caldwell and Walter Thornton, section 36. After the removal of the Indians a few of these veterans settled upon their claims, but most of the lands were sold to speculators.

The first settlements in this section were made in 1830, some nine years before the organization of Stark County. Michael Fraker located in the grove a short distance west of the present Village of Lafayette, which still bears the name of Fraker's Grove. There he erected a hand mill for the use of himself and his neighbors. This mill was afterward purchased by William Dunbar, one of the pioneers of Goshen Township, familiarly known as the "Old Hatter." It is said that settlers from all parts of the county would bring their furs—



from rabbit to beaver skins—to Mr. Dunbar to have them made into hats. So well did he do his work his hats would last for years, the owner coming in several times to have them cleaned and reblocked. Other early settlers were the Miners, Parrishes, Hitchcocks, Fitches and a few other families, some of whom lived in what is now Stark County and the others just across the line in Knox.

In 1834 Henry McClenahan settled in the township, entered 240 acres of land in section 31, and continued to reside there until his death in June, 1857. The next year (1835) Conrad and Jacob Emery came from Ohio and settled in the township. Conrad Emery was a veteran of the War of 1812. Nelson Grant, a native of Connecticut, also settled in Goshen in 1835. John White came with his family from Ohio in 1836 and the next year Samuel Parrish, the founder of the Parrish family in Stark County, located on lands which he had previously entered in Goshen Township. He served in the Revolutionary war, afterward settling in Canada and coming from that country to Illinois. He joined the Mormon Church about a year after coming to Illinois and removed to Nauvoo, where he died. Some of his children remained in Stark County, where their descendants still live.

Minott Silliman, the first treasurer of Stark County, entered several tracts of land in Goshen Township and became a resident of that township in 1837. Barnabas M. and James Jackson and Elijah Eltzroth were among the settlers of 1838. Mr. Eltzroth was a cabinet maker by trade and made a large part of the furniture used by the first families. The first election for school trustees in Goshen Township was held at his house on April 6, 1839, when Luther Driscoll, Charles H. Miner and Samuel Parrish were elected. Jeremiah Bennett was likewise a settler of 1838.

Lafayette is the only town or village in the township. It is situated near the western border, on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, which runs almost due east and west through the central part of the township. A history of the village will be found in the next chapter. Goshen is therefore an agricultural community, though considerable attention has been given in recent years to fruit raising, and there are two large nurseries near Lafayette.

The nine public school buildings in the township, including the one in Lafayette, are valued at \$17,500 and twelve teachers were employed during the school year of 1914-15. The population in 1910 was 1,145 and in 1914 the assessed value of the property was \$1,063,677.



## OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP

The Township of Osceola occupies the northeastern corner of the county, including Congressional township 14, range 7. It is bounded on the north and east by Bureau County; on the south by Penn Township, and on the west by the Township of Elmira. The East Fork of the Spoon River flows diagonally across the township from northeast to southwest, Silver Creek drains the northeastern portion and across the southern part Cooper's Defeat Creek flows westwardly until it empties into the East Fork in section 31. More than 80 per cent of the 23,040 acres of land lying within this township is capable of being cultivated and yields abundant crops, owing to the great fertility of the soil. When the first white men came to this part of the county they found here a beautiful prairie, which may account in a great measure for the large number of soldiers' land warrants being filed between the years 1817 and 1820. In those years lands were entered in this township by veterans of the War of 1812 as follows:

In section 1, Daniel Prestman and John Wingfield; section 2, John Cochran and Richard Marshall; section 3, Levi Spaulding and John Spencer; section 4, Isaac Irvine and George Rowland; section 5, H. J. Balch and Jacob Seeders; section 6, John Swisson; section 7, Timothy Carter and Daniel Whisker; section 8, Alanson Adams, Samuel Adams, John Pilsbury and Margaret Smith; section 9, James C. Angell, Alexander McConkey, John T. Swords and Stephen Whipple; section 10, Charles Avery, Nathan Brown, Samuel Shannon and William Weaver; section 11, Stephen Bridges, John Gowen, Reusselaer Lee and Shelton Lockwood; section 12, Joseph Cutler; section 13, David Flagg and Jonathan Pike; section 14, William Brower, Andrew Campbell, Frederick Devoe and Asahel Stanley; section 15, John Barker, Ephraim Pratt, Timothy Thompson and Gerard Tracy; section 17, John Carroll, John Langfitt, Jacob Sticker and James Wiley; section 18, Amos Bunnell and Asa Manning; section 19, William Kurnin; section 20, James Bush; section 21, Eli Brady and Andrew Groyne; section 22, William Crowson, William Graham and Jabez Graves; section 23, Sammel Allen, Philip Andrews, Isaac McCarter and James Taylor; section 24, Frederick Honn, Samuel Neal, Elijah Nickerson and George Stall; section 25, Job Haskell, Hudson Knight and F. K. Robinson; section 26, John Coon, Josiah Brantley, Orson Menard and J. C. Parker; section 27, E. F. Nichols, Richard Hardy, William F. Reed and Amos Small; section 28, William Eaton and George Stanton; section 31, Zachary Gray; section

32, Grandeson B. Cooper; section 33, Winship Gordon and Lawrence Hoots; section 34, Sammel K. Jenkins, John Lennon, Samuel Moulton and Arthur Sherrard; section 35, George Anway, Joseph Kenion, George Longmire and William Macling; section 36, Jacob Morton.

The eighty-seven soldiers' claims of 160 acres each absorbed 13,920 acres, or a little more than 60 per cent of the entire township. When actual settlers began to come in there were several disputes and law suits over title to the lands, which retarded to some extent the development of the township. The vexed question was finally settled, however, and since then Osceola has grown to be one of the wealthiest, most populous and prosperous townships of Stark County.

When the first settlers came to the township in 1835 they found a beautiful grove in the northwestern part, extending into what is now Elmira Township, and it was here that they located. At that time the Seminole Indians in Florida were at war with the United States under the leadership of the half-breed chief, Osceola. This chief was the son of a white man named Willis Powell and a Creek squaw. He was born in Georgia, but while he was still in his youth his mother deserted her own tribe and joined the Seminoles. Some of the early settlers, admiring the skill and bravery of the adopted chief in resisting the removal of the Seminoles from their favorite hunting grounds in Florida, named the grove "Osceola Grove," and this name was afterward conferred upon the civil township established in 1853.

The first land entries made by actual settlers were in the grove above mentioned and along the East Fork of the Spoon River. Nicholas Sturm and Henry Seely located claims in section 28 in 1835. The following year Robert and William Hall entered land in section 6; James Buswell in section 7; Isaac Spencer, section 18; James Clark and Samuel Love, section 19; Mathias Sturm, section 21, and Joseph Newton, section 28. In 1837 Myrtle G. Brace located in section 6, John Watts in section 19, and W. H. Boardman in section 31.

Although Osceola is an agricultural community, considerable coal mining has been done in the township. As early as 1861 John McLaughlin was mining coal at a place known as Foster's coal bank, about two and a half miles west of Bradford, and there were other mines along the Spoon River and about Lombardville. A more complete account of the mining interests of the county will be found in the chapter on Finance and Industry.

The Buda & Rushville branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway system runs through the eastern part of the township, with stations at Bradford and Lombardville, and furnishes transportation facilities to the people living east of the Spoon River.

The first election of school trustees in Osceola Township was on June 3, 1846, when Liberty Stone, I. W. Searl and Zebulon Avery were elected. Immediately after their election the trustees divided the township into three school districts. In 1915 there were nine public school buildings, valued at \$10,800, and during the preceding school year sixteen teachers were employed. The population of the township in 1910, including the incorporated Village of Bradford, was 1,577, and in 1914 the property was valued for tax purposes at \$1,090,874.

#### PENN TOWNSHIP

This is the middle township of the eastern tier and embraces Congressional township 13 north, range 7 east. It is bounded on the north by Osceola Township; on the east by Marshall County; on the south by Valley Township, and on the west by the Township of Toulon. The surface is moderately diversified and originally a large part of the township was prairie land, with a soil above the average in fertility. Coal deposits underlie the township and in a few places have been found beds of a good quality of fire clay, but they have not been developed. The only stream of any consequence is a tributary of Cooper's Defeat Creek in the northeastern portion. Captain Haacke, one of the early settlers of Peoria, several years ago told the story of how this creek received its name. His account is as follows:

"The winter of 1831-32 was the winter of the deep snow. The weather before Christmas being pleasant a party of four men was equipped by a trader by the name of John Hamlin, then of Peoria, who was buying furs for the American Fur Company. Fitting them out with an ox team of two yoke and provisions for their journey from Peoria to the Winnebago swamps, with goods to trade to the Winnebago and Pottawatomi Indians, they started on their journey. Soon snow commenced to fall, the air grew colder, and continued to grow more so as they went along, until they were compelled by the fierce cold and driving snow to abandon their team. In fact the snow was so deep that the cattle got swamped and they were left to their fate. With Boyd's Grove in view, the men started, guided by a large tree and a light at the grove. A man named Ridgeway was the only one of the party who succeeded in reaching the grove. The other three, two of whom were William and Jerry Cooper (the other name forgotten), perished on the prairie near a stream southwest of Boyd's Grove. The bones of the men and the cattle were seen in the spring following, also the sled, as the soldiers of the Black Hawk war were

marching, all mounted, 260 strong, to make battle with the Sac and Fox Indians. The stream where the men perished has since been known as 'Cooper's Defeat.' "

Township 13, range 7, seems to have been a favorite field for the veterans of the War of 1812, as nearly one hundred land warrants were located in what is now Penn Township. Following is a list of entries made between the years 1817 and 1820:

Section 1, William Y. Knapp, Elizabeth Leonard (soldier's widow) and James Rogers; section 2, Daniel Robertson; section 3, Francis Cook and James Scandling; section 4, John and William Owen; section 5, William A. McLane and Samuel Tyler; section 6, Benjamin Howard; section 7, Peter Kerns and Job Price; section 8, Charles Brewster, William H. Fann and John Hoagden; section 9, Samuel Earl, Samuel Ellis, William Kelly and Levi Pratt; section 10, George Coates, Ebenezer Cobb, William Loomis and Stephen Newburg; section 11, Richard Carver, William Gordon, Philip Phelps; section 12, George Kindle, Elijah Loveless, Moses Taylor and Thomas Tyler; section 13, Patrick Freeman, John W. Ingersoll and William Trottenberger; section 14, Daniel Bennett, John Connor, John J. Jewell and William Sheets; section 15, John Beals, John Cook, Mathias Boyd and Robert McIntosh; section 17, Ira Holman, Thomas Johnson, Henry Parker and George Suter; section 18, Nathan Convers and Aaron Woodworth; section 19, Abiezer Washburn and Asa Winslow; section 20, Richard Bayard, Jonathan Drake, Shelby Hobbs and Nathan Shepherd; section 21, Alvin Dillingham, Samuel Lane, Joseph McFarlin and James Parks; section 22, Benjamin Brown, Samuel Lewis, William Stewart and Joseph Windell; section 23, Moses Heath, Archibald McCrary and Christian Right; section 24, Amos C. Babcock, John W. Ingersoll, Bernard McMahon and John Mason; section 25, John Norfleet and Jacob Skinner; section 26, James Giles, Paul Green, Thomas McCoy and Joshua Register; section 27, Timothy Dixon, Richard Embley, Joseph Morse and Warren Sartwell; section 28, William Briggs, John Adams, Thomas Dennis and Richard Edmunds; section 29, Giles C. Dana, George Decker, Joseph Dockham and John Nichols; section 30, Horace Clark and Harvey Gaylord; section 31, Adonijah Ball and Peter Ricker; section 32, John Brandon, Christopher Brockett and Jacob Trishour; section 33, Peter Brown, Robert Devine, Jeremiah Gillilan and William Matthews; section 34, Adam Sufford, Nathaniel Varnum, Thomas Walden and Horace Witheville; section 35, Moses

Aldrich, John Messing and Jenks Waite; section 36, Thomas Lee and John W. Ingersoll.

The actual settlement of the township began before the organization of the county. One of the earliest settlers was James Holgate, who was born in Philadelphia, Pa., July 26, 1804, and when sixteen years of age went to Luzerne County, in his native state, where he learned the miller's trade. In 1833 he left Pennsylvania and came to Illinois, locating in section 19, in what is now Penn Township. He held the office of county judge for eight years; was justice of the peace and a member of the Legislature; was one of the democratic leaders in Stark County, and was an energetic and useful citizen. He died about 1885.

Henry Seely, another pioneer of Penn, was a native of New York State, but came west while still a young man and was married in Indiana. Soon after his marriage he came to Illinois and acquired 320 acres of land in what is now Penn Township. His place was long known as "Seely's Point" and is located in sections 27 and 28. He was elected to several offices on the republican ticket and was an active member of the Methodist Church. His death occurred in March, 1876.

Others who settled or entered land in this township in the '30s were Dexter Wall, Benjamin and David Newton, John T. Phenix, Henry Breese, Lemuel S. Dorrance, Sylvanus Moore, Elisha C. and Nehemiah Merritt. Then came the Averys, the Bunnells, the Snares, the Bococks and other families, many of whose descendants still reside in the township.

Prior to the introduction of the township system in 1853 the territory comprising Penn Township was included in the "Spoon River Precinct." After the people of Stark County had voted to adopt the township organization, Henry Breese was appointed one of the commissioners to divide the county into civil townships. He was from Pennsylvania, as were a number of his neighbors, and suggested the name of "Pennsylvania" for his township, but the other two commissioners thought the name too long, so it was shortened to "Penn."

Castleton, a little northwest of the center of the township, is the only town. It is located on the line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, which runs from northeast to southwest through the township.

Penn reported a population of 931 in 1910, which was a slight decrease from the census of ten years before. In 1914 the property was valued for taxation at \$885,501. The nine schoolhouses are valued at \$9,350, and ten teachers are employed in the public schools.

## TOULON TOWNSHIP

Of the eight townships comprising Stark County, Toulon is the most centrally located. It includes Congressional Township 13 north, range 6 east. Elmira Township bounds it on the north; Penn on the east; Essex on the south, and Goshen on the west. Spoon River flows southwardly across the eastern portion and the southwest corner is watered by Indian Creek. Along the streams the surface is somewhat broken, but the greater part of the township consists of rolling land with a fertile soil, well adapted to agricultural purposes. Some coal has been mined in the township. When Stark County was first organized in 1839 the eastern half of this township was in the Wyoming Precinct and the western half in the Central Precinct. Fourteen years later the township system was adopted and the name of "Toulon" was given to the township, from the county seat, which is located near its western border.

More than one hundred military land warrants were located in Toulon Township between the years 1817 and 1820. Jonathan Matthews and Samuel P. Tufts selected claims in section 1; Michael Cunningham and Nathan Chadwick, section 2; William Dunlap and Charles Gist, section 3; Erastus Backus and Joseph Banks, section 4; Solomon Hutchinson and Jesse Seeley, section 5; Jacob Rheam, section 6; David Park, Hiram Stevens and William Wiley, section 7; Elijah Coates, Ira Ellmore and Samuel McCahan, section 8; Daniel Dudley, Amos J. Eagleson, Silas McCullough and Robert Morton, section 9; Hester Fanst, Bela Hall, Joseph Porter and Ira Remington, section 10; Isaac Dyer, Benjamin Pratt, James Thomas and Benjamin H. Tozer, section 11; Luke Blackshire, Abram Bowman and Samuel Grimes, section 12; David Fulwell, Jesse Ormsby, George W. Russell and Isaac Patch, section 13; John Dawson, John Pike, Robert D. Thompson and David R. Whiteley, section 14; Samuel Null, Abram Rader, Thomas Thompson and John R. Turner, section 15; James Bulley, William Davidson, Valentine Matthews and John Yearns, section 17; John Wallace and William Young, section 18; William Bennett and Gideon W. Moody, section 19; Lydia Barrett, Edward D. Strickland, Robert Vallally and William Vanderman, section 20; Jephtha Cloud, Robert Fry, Moses McClay and Robert Miner, section 21; Nicholas Cook, Allen B. Strong and John Wells, section 22; Reuben Boles, Richard Hill and W. B. McKennan, section 23; Abel H. Coleman, Silas M. Moore and Isaac Parcelles, section 24; Joseph Joy, William Karns, John Thompson and Asaph





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Wetherill, section 25; George Metzinger, Thomas Rogers and Joseph Wildey, section 26; Timothy Cook, Joseph S. Gorman, Job Parkhead and Polly Tucker, section 27; Ebenezer Gilkey, Samuel Griffith, Jacob Slantler and Phineas Spilman, section 28; Asa Hill, William Hyde, Henry Roberts and James Trumbull, section 29; Philip Lawless and Adam McCaslin, section 30; Squire Williams and Peter Wolf, section 31; James Baldwin, David Hambleton, Isaac Higgins and Thomas Wandell, section 32; Henry Bailey, James Chancey, Joseph Cram and John Cross, section 33; Jeremiah Davis, Richard Nixon, William Oaks and John Short, section 34; John Bussell, Luke G. Hasley, Benjamin Hughes and Henry Murphy, section 35; John Lynes, John Hageman, Patrick Short and Thomas W. Way, section 36.

The first lands entered for actual settlement were the southwest quarter of section 30 and the northwest quarter of section 31, which were entered on June 24, 1839, the former by Adam Perry and the latter by William H. Henderson. On September 6, 1839, John Miller entered the southwest quarter of section 19, where the City of Toulon now stands, and on the 28th of the same month John Culbertson entered the quarter section directly north of Miller's. Lewis Perry, Chauncey D. Fuller and William Mahaney also entered lands in the township in the fall of 1839.

Col. William H. Henderson, one of the early settlers in Toulon Township and a man who played an important part in the early history of Stark County, was born in Garrard County, Ky., November 16, 1793. At the beginning of the War of 1812 he enlisted in the Kentucky Mounted Riflemen, commanded by Col. Richard M. Johnson, and with his regiment was at the battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. Upon retiring from the army he located in Stewart County, Tenn., where he was married on January 11, 1816, to Miss Lucinda Wimberly. He served as sheriff of Stewart County and afterward removed to Haywood County, in the western part of the state. In 1831 he visited Illinois and selected lands in what is now La Salle County, about fifteen miles north of the present City of Ottawa. In the spring of 1832 his father and mother, two of his brothers and a man named Robert Norris, with two of his wife's brothers, set out for the new possessions. Just then the Black Hawk war came on, Robert Norris was killed by the Indians and the other members of the family were compelled to vacate their claims. Colonel Henderson therefore remained in Tennessee and in 1835 was elected to represent his district in the State Senate. He resigned his seat,

however, before the expiration of his term, and on July 2, 1836, landed in Stark County. His work in securing the organization of the county is told in another chapter; the first session of the Circuit Court of Stark County was held at his house; he was a member of the last Legislature that met at Vandalia and the first that met at Springfield, and was otherwise active in public affairs. In 1845 he removed to Iowa and died in that state on January 27, 1864. His son, Thomas J. Henderson, was colonel of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Infantry in the Civil war.

In 1841 the county seat was located at Toulon and much of the history of Toulon Township is intimately associated with the county seat. It is therefore told in connection with the history of the City of Toulon in another chapter. The Peoria & Rock Island (now the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific) Railroad was built through the township in 1871.

According to the United States census for 1910 the population in that year was 2,579, which included parts of the cities of Toulon and Wyoming. There are nine school districts in the township, outside of the City of Toulon, in which ten teachers were employed during the school year of 1914-15, and in 1914 the taxable value of the property, including railroad property, was \$1,401,244.

#### VALLEY TOWNSHIP

Valley Township occupies the southeast corner of the county and embraces Congressional Township 12 north, range 7 east. It is bounded on the north by Penn Township; on the east by Marshall County; on the south by Peoria County, and on the west by the Township of Essex. Previous to the introduction of the township system in 1853, this part of the county formed a part of the Wyoming Precinct. When the county was divided into townships the name "Valley" was conferred upon this political subdivision for the reason that it occupies the broad, fertile valley at the foot of the highest divide in the state. Camping Run flows in a westerly direction through the northern part and Mud Run through the southern part. With a generally level or slightly rolling surface and a productive soil, some of the finest farms in the county are in Valley Township.

With the exception of section 16—the public school section—and a few isolated tracts here and there, practically the entire township was claimed by veterans of the War of 1812 under the Military Bounty Act. Following is a list of soldiers' land warrants located between the years 1817 and 1820:

Section 1, Charles Gibbard and Linus Gilbert; section 2, Justus Cobb and Thomas Edwards; section 3, Joseph McCord and John Thornburg; section 4, John Vinehane and Charles Young; section 5, Welcome Butterworth (320 acres); section 6, John Sargent and James Sawyer; section 7, Isaac Paulding and Samuel P. Stegner; section 8, Isaac Childs, John Erskine, Hugh Robb and Nehemiah Wood; section 9, Richard Horton, William Herrald, William W. Siekles and Nicholas Van Steyke; section 10, Benjamin Fall, Caleb Johnson, Leverett Richardson and John Vanderbeck; section 11, John Green, David Page and Edward Wyman; section 12, William Heath, Thomas H. Parker and John Pritchard; section 13, Robert Brown, Philip Clarke, Robert Cockles and Thompson White; section 14, Zerah Call, John Coffey, Oliphant Coleman and Charles Kitchen; section 15, Lodowick Blackley, James Briggs and John O'Neil; section 17, George Armstrong, John Concannon, Hampton Owens and John Thompson; section 18, Isaac Ackerman, James Beardwine, Pleasant Meredith and Peter Rotis; section 19, John Bingham, Norman Collins and Benjamin R. Meredith; section 20, Daniel Burns, William Dillon, Philip Kinston and Nathaniel White; section 21, John Booth, Gerard Gibson, John L. Griswold and William Walker; section 22, David Durand and Charles Tabor; section 23, John Andrews, Isaac Garrett and Nathan Hall; section 24, Charles Curran, William T. Graves, William McGlynn and Owen Riley; section 25, Samuel Adams, Thomas Carty, James Sproul and Joseph Yates; section 26, Frederick Cook, Frank Lowder, John McCormack and Benjamin Tarr; section 27, Ichabod Colby, Thomas Harris and Conrad Mandell; section 28, Clement C. Minor; section 29, David Guthrie, David Bringman, Francis Dudley and Moses Hamphill; section 30, John Archibald, Benjamin S. Snyder and Alexander Waisteoat; section 31, John Ayler, Henry Emery, Michael Gebhart and Daniel Palmer; section 32, Silas Beverstock, Samuel Chatterton, Calvin Hoyt and John Laekey; section 33, William Hearn, William Martland, Aaron Turner and Horton Wood; section 34, Peter Holloway, Isaac Smith, William Tapp and Daniel Woolford; section 35, Putnam Conouss, Abaz Cook and James H. Rowland; section 36, Luke Barton, Moses Davis and Zeba Parmeley.

As in the other townships of the county, these military titles subsequently caused numerous misunderstandings and retarded settlement to some extent. Among those who entered lands along in the '30s for actual occupation were Edwin and Titus Hutchinson, William C. Cummings, Joseph Sulliman, Charles Pope and a few others. The school section was not disposed of until 1851.

On July 17, 1847, the first school trustees—David Rouse, Z. G. Bliss and William C. Cummings—were chosen at an election held at the house of David Rouse, and the township was soon afterward organized for school purposes. There were then but nine families, with forty-one children, and only two districts were established. Since then the two original districts have been subdivided until in 1915 there were eight. The eight schoolhouses in the township were then valued at \$8,650 and during the school year of 1914-15 ten teachers were employed.

Valley is fairly well provided with transportation facilities, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad passing through the western part and the Chicago & Northwestern through the southeastern portion. Stark on the former and Speer on the latter are the only railroad stations. In 1910 the population was 821, an increase of 33 during the preceding decade, and in 1914 the assessed value of the property, including railroads, was \$856,836.

#### WEST JERSEY TOWNSHIP

This township is situated in the southwest corner of the county and includes Congressional Township 12 north, range 5 east. The surface is gently undulating and the only stream of consequence is Walnut Creek, which flows in a southerly direction through the western half. Some coal and fire clay deposits have been found in the township. With the exception of a small tract of sandy land called the "Barrens," the entire township is well adapted to agriculture and produces fine crops of corn, wheat, oats and other farm products suited to this section of the state. Fruit growing has received considerable attention in recent years and West Jersey boasts some of the best orchards in the county.

For some reason the Walnut Creek Valley was not looked upon with favor by the veterans of the War of 1812 and comparatively few military "floats" were located in this section. Solomon Marshall entered by military land warrant the northeast quarter of section 1; Daniel Trash, section 4; Hezekiah Adeock, section 17; Charles Davis, section 20; Benjamin Sherman, section 21; Nicholas Walsh, section 22; George Dearborn, section 25; Sheldon Clark, section 28; Charles Higgins, section 29; Charles Hoover, in the same section; Elijah Smith and Ebenezer Nichols, section 32; John Scott and Peleg Tupper, section 33; Robert C. Jackson and Edward Stewart, section 34; Cromwell Bullock, Cato Bunnell and Henry S. Hunt, section 35; David Bowen and John Phillips, section 36.

The first actual settler in the township was Jacob B. Smith, who came from Fulton County, Ill., in February, 1836, entered the southeast quarter of section 35, built his log cabin and began the work of building up a home in the wilderness. George Eckley came soon afterward with his wife and five children from Seneca County, Ohio, and located in section 25. Before the close of the year 1836 Philip Keller, Michael Jones, Washington and Stephen Trickle, Ephraim Barnett, John Brown and a few others settled in various parts of the township. The year 1837 witnessed the arrival of William W. Webster, Nehemiah Wykoff, Newton Matthews, John Pratz and some others. Joseph Palmer came about this time and on July 4, 1838, a "celebration" was held at his house, near Walnut Creek. Forty-six persons took dinner with Mr. Palmer. Caleb North delivered the oration, and the affair wound up with a dance, William Mason furnishing the music. George A. Clifford says Mr. Mason lived near the present City of Toulon and that he received nine dollars on this occasion, "the first money he ever took in for music."

Joseph Palmer, at whose house this celebration was given, was a native of Brattleboro, Vt., where he was born in 1802. When about twenty-five years of age he decided to "Go West and grow up with the country," and located in Ashland County, Ohio, where he married a Miss Mary Slocum. In 1837 he came to Stark County and purchased 320 acres of land in what is now West Jersey Township. In 1844 he was elected a member of the old board of county commissioners and served one term. After the Civil war he removed to Galesburg, Ill., where he passed the remaining years of his life.

Jacob B. Smith, the original pioneer of West Jersey, was born near Reading, Pa., in 1801. He afterward went to Ashland County, Ohio, where he married Mrs. Maria Murphy, nee Trickle, and in 1835 came to Stark County as above stated. His first dwelling here was a log cabin sixteen feet square. After a residence of several years in Stark County, he removed to Galva, Ill., and died there in September, 1884.

When Stark County was organized in 1839 the territory now comprising the Township of West Jersey was included in justice's district No. 3, which afterward became known as Massillon Precinct. Between 1836 and 1850 several families from New Jersey settled in this part of the county. Among them were the Bodines, Boyds, Hazens, Wileys, Youngs and some others. When the township system was introduced in 1853 these people requested that their township be called West Jersey, which request was granted and in that way the town-

ship was named. Some say the township was named after the village of West Jersey, but that is a mistake, as the village was not platted until three years after the townships of the county were organized and named.

Washington Smith, a son of Jacob Smith, was the first white child born in the township. The first frame house was built by Washington Trickle in 1838. The first school was taught by Miss Columbia A. Dunn, a sister of Rev. R. C. Dunn, and the first schoolhouse was built in 1837 or 1838. In 1915 there were eight public schoolhouses in the township, valued at \$8,200, and one teacher was employed in each district during the preceding school year.

West Jersey is one of the two townships of Stark County without a railroad. The people living in the northern half of the township find railroad accommodations at Toulon or Lafayette, and those living in the southern part are within reach of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, which runs through the northern part of Peoria County.

In 1910 the population of West Jersey Township was 818 and in 1914 the property was assessed for taxation at \$735,851.



## CHAPTER VIII

### CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

SPECULATION IN EARLY DAYS—NUMEROUS TOWNS PROJECTED—LIST OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN STARK COUNTY—CITIES OF TOULON AND WYOMING—INCORPORATED VILLAGES OF BRADFORD AND LAFAYETTE—MINOR VILLAGES—HISTORICAL SKETCH OF EACH—PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS—POSTOFFICES AND RURAL MAIL ROUTES.

In the early settlement of the West there seems to have been a sort of mania for laying off towns. Companies were organized for the purpose of preempting the most available sites, employing surveyors to make plats, copies of which were sent to cities in the East to advertise the advantages of the coming metropolis of this or that locality. In some of the counties there were more towns two or three years after the first settlements were made than there are today, if a paper plat constituted a town, and nearly every man or company that had a town-site had a map made to show that particular town as being the best situated for the county seat.

Scarcely had the first settlements been made in what is now Stark County until the speculator and promoter were in the field laying off towns. Some of the towns thus projected have survived and grown into commercial centers of considerable importance; others are merely small railroad stations, neighborhood trading points, or postoffices for a rural community; and still others have passed out of existence. From a careful examination of the official plat books, old atlases and newspaper files, the following list of towns that are or have been in Stark County has been compiled: Bradford, Camp Grove, Castleton, Duncan, Elmira, Lafayette, Lombardville, Massillon, Modena, Morse, Moulton, Osceola, Pleasant Green, Puckerbrush, Slackwater, Speer, Stark, Starwano, Stringtown, Toulon, Wady Petra, Walden, West Jersey and Wyoming. A few of these places, such as Puckerbrush and Stringtown, were never officially platted, but, like Topsy in Uncle Tom's Cabin, they "jest growed."

While the above list is arranged alphabetically, in giving their history, the towns will be considered in the order of their importance, beginning with

#### TOULON

Section 9 of the act of March 2, 1839, under which Stark County was organized, provided that the county seat should be called "Toulon," and in Chapter VI will be found an account of the manner in which the location was selected. At the time the site was chosen for the seat of justice in 1841, the only house upon the original plat of the town was a small cabin, which was occupied by John Miller and his family. This cabin had been erected by Minott Silliman in the spring of 1835 and sold, with the land, to John Miller, the place afterward becoming known as "Miller's Point." Leeson's History of Stark County says: "In 1832 Harris W. Miner erected a cabin not far from the Toulon depot; and it is further claimed for him and this section that here the beginnings of cultivation of lands in this township were made, although Minott Silliman, who came later, does not state positively that any evidences of such improvement were observed by him."

On July 28, 1841, John Miller and his wife executed a deed, conveying to the commissioners of Stark County the tract selected for a county seat. The "ninety rods square" included in the deed was laid off into lots by Carson Berfield in August, 1841. The original plat shows sixteen blocks of ten lots each, with Miller, Franklin, Washington and Henderson streets running north and south, and Vine, Main and Jefferson streets running east and west. Between the north and south streets were three alleys, each twenty feet in width, named Plum, Cherry and Grape. Since that plat was filed in the office of the county recorder several additions have been made to the town, the most important of which is Henderson & Whitaker's addition, which consists of thirty blocks. Then there are Culbertson's Eastern and Western additions, the Assessor's addition and Turner's addition. These additions have increased the area of the town more than three times that shown by the original plat.

The first sale of lots in Toulon was held on September 14-15, 1841. Bidders were plentiful and 122 lots were sold. The highest price paid for any one lot was \$86, which was paid for lot 10 in block 6, and the lowest price was \$5, for lot 2, block 9, and lot 1, block 1. Among the purchasers were Oliver Whitaker, John W. Henderson, Jonathan Hodgson, Benjamin Turner, Cyril Ward, Minott Silliman, David



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Essex, Nero W. Mounts, John Miller, Henry Breese, Calvin Powell, Harris Miner and several others whose names figure prominently in early Stark County history. In October following the sale Benjamin Turner built the first "real house" in the town. A postoffice was established a little later and Mr. Turner was appointed the first postmaster.

John Culbertson, who located just outside the town plat in 1841 and brought a stock of goods, was probably the first merchant. He commanded a large trade in and around Toulon, built a flour mill and established a woolen factory, and was otherwise active in building up the new county seat. His investments in real estate were extensive and a neighbor once remarked: "Uncle John will not be satisfied until he owns all of this township and the one west of it." Another pioneer of 1841 was Dr. Thomas Hall, who was the first resident physician.

The first hotel was kept by Benjamin Turner, who also kept a small stock of goods in one of the front rooms. The building in which his hotel was kept was afterward removed to the northwest corner of the public square, where it was occupied by various persons as a mercantile establishment for a number of years. Other early hotel keepers were B. A. Hall and William Rose. Alexander Abel kept a tavern on the north side of Main Street, between Franklin and Miller, where the Virginia House was built by J. A. Cooley in 1849.

The first school in Toulon was taught by Miss Elizabeth Buswell, in an upper room of the courthouse, in 1843. It was known as a common school, while Miss Susan Gill, daughter of Elder Elisha Gill, taught a "select" school in an adjoining room. The first schoolhouse, still referred to by old residents as the "old brick," was built on Jefferson Street, in the western part of town. It was but one story high and was built by Ira Ward, Jr., at a cost of \$600. T. J. Henderson taught the first school in the building after it was finished. The brick for the structure was burned especially for it by W. B. Sweet, and the lumber was hauled from the Illinois River. That was the beginning of Toulon's public school system, which has developed into two magnificent modern buildings, in which seventeen teachers are employed.

A Methodist class was organized just south of the town in 1841, with Caleb B. Flint as class leader. This was the beginning of the Toulon Methodist Church, the first religious organization in the town. A more complete account of the churches of Toulon will be found in Chapter XV.

In October, 1857, a movement was instituted for the incorporation of Toulon. At a meeting of the citizens, held at the clerk's office early in March, 1858, thirty-four votes were cast in favor of the proposition and only two were opposed. E. L. Emery, Oliver Whitaker, Miles A. Fuller, William Lowman and Isaac C. Reed were elected as the first board of trustees. No record can be found concerning this first corporate government of the town, but on February 11, 1859, the Legislature passed an act defining the powers and duties of the trustees of Toulon.

A reorganization of the town government took place in the spring of 1868. At an election held on the first Monday of April in that year, Caleb M. S. Lyons, Davis Lowman, Amos P. Gill, Hugh Y. Godfrey and David Tinlin were chosen trustees. In the organization of the new board, Mr. Lyons was elected president; Mr. Tinlin, clerk; Mr. Gill, treasurer, and Miles A. Fuller was appointed attorney. On April 17, 1868, fourteen ordinances were passed and ordered printed in the Stark County News. The first related to public morality, health and police regulations; the second prohibited gaming houses; the third fixed a penalty for interfering with the town officers in the discharge of their duties; the fourth provided for the punishment of persons disturbing the peace; the fifth prohibited certain animals from running at large; the sixth related to streets and alleys and prohibited fast driving within the corporate limits; the seventh altered certain streets and alleys; the eighth and ninth dealt with labor upon the streets and alleys; the tenth forbade the sale of intoxicating liquors; the eleventh licensed and regulated the keeping of billiard tables; the twelfth provided for licensing peddlers and auctioneers; the thirteenth related to legal proceedings, and the fourteenth to the election and appointment of officers.

The railroad was completed to Toulon in June, 1871, and during the next year there were a number of additions to the population. Consequently the board of trustees on March 5, 1873, issued a call for an election to be held at the courthouse on April 7, 1873, "to submit to the voters of the said town the question whether the said town shall become incorporated as a city (village) under the general incorporation laws of the State of Illinois."

A majority of the votes were cast in favor of the change in municipal government and the following trustees were elected: Dennis Mawbey, James Nowlan, H. Stauffer, Benjamin C. Follett and Warren Williams. The village government thus established continued for thirty-six years. On April 20, 1909, an election was held

to decide the question whether Toulon should incorporate as a city. A majority of the votes were cast in favor of the change and the charter bears date of April 22, 1909. The first city officers were: George Nowlan, mayor; Arthur Shinn, clerk; Harry B. Davis, treasurer; Victor G. Fuller, attorney; F. C. McClenahan, Thomas J. Malone, William A. Newton, Orlando Brace, Amiel F. Lehman and E. H. Lloyd, aldermen. Mr. Nowlan served as mayor until the spring of 1915, when he was succeeded by J. H. Baker.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT

On June 6, 1892, the board of trustees granted to Miles A. Fuller a franchise to construct and maintain an electric lighting plant, the life of said franchise to be twenty-five years. Mr. Fuller and his associates went to work almost immediately upon the plant and the result was that on the evening of December 25, 1892, the Town of Toulon was lighted for the first time by electricity. Some years later the business was incorporated under the name of the "Toulon Light and Power Company." The power-house, which is located on Franklin Street between Main and Vine, is equipped with modern electric machinery and the company besides furnishing light to the people of Toulon also furnishes power for pumping water for the municipal waterworks.

#### WATERWORKS

About the time the form of government was changed from village to city, the question of establishing a system of waterworks was agitated by some of the progressive citizens. The movement gained headway and on June 6, 1910, the city council passed an ordinance calling a special election for the purpose of voting on the question of issuing bonds to the amount of \$15,000 to establish waterworks. The proposition to issue the bonds was carried by a substantial majority at the election and the engineering firm of W. S. Shields & Company was given the contract for the erection of the tower and reservoir and the installation of the pumping machinery.

Gray Brothers, well drillers, were employed to sink a deep well and during the summer of 1911 about four and a half miles of mains were laid, the mains being paid for by a special assessment against the property benefited. The well which furnishes the water supply is 1,448 feet in depth. A reservoir of 50,000 gallons and a steel tank mounted upon a tower also having a capacity of 50,000 gallons, hold



a supply of water equal to any demand that is likely to arise. The ordinary pumping capacity is sufficient to furnish water for daily use, and in addition there is a reserve pump that can be called into requisition in case of fire, etc. The cost of the plant complete, including the special assessment for the mains, was about thirty thousand dollars. Few cities in the state, the size of Toulon, can boast a better system of waterworks or a more bountiful supply of pure, wholesome water.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS, ETC.

The City Hall, located on Franklin Street, adjoining the water tower and the electric light plant, was erected in 1910 at a cost of \$6,000. It is two stories high, with walls of concrete block, steel ceilings, etc. In the lower story are kept the fire engine, hook and ladder truck and other property of the fire company, and the second story contains the offices of the mayor, city clerk, council chamber, and in the rear a room for the members of the fire department. The building is heated by a furnace and well provided with toilet rooms and lockers for the municipal officials and employees.

On March 6, 1914, the council passed an ordinance for the construction of a sewer system, to be paid for by special assessment. The contract was awarded to W. S. Shields & Company, the same firm that built the waterworks. This firm has made a special study of sewer problems in connection with cities, and at Toulon an opportunity was given for the construction of a model system. A septic tank was built southeast of the city and about four miles of sewer laid, the total cost being about twenty-five thousand dollars. So well has this system done its work that other cities about to install sewers have sent committees to Toulon to study the methods used, and all have gone away satisfied that the city "got its money's worth" in building the way it did.

A fire department was organized in the early '90s and Charles S. McKee was appointed chief a little later, a position he has held ever since. The first apparatus purchased for the use of the company was a second-hand hose reel, which was bought from the City of Galva. Then came the hook and ladder truck. Later Mr. McKee went to Indianapolis, Ind., and purchased a combined gas engine and hose cart from the Howe Manufacturing Company of that city. With this acquisition to the fire fighting equipment of the city, Toulon is well prepared to combat any fire that is likely to break out. The company consists of twenty-five members and holds meetings for instruction and drill on the third Monday evening in each month.

The Toulon Civic Club was organized at the opera house on Thursday evening, August 5, 1915. The objects of the club, as stated in the articles of association, are "to develop, promote and enhance the civic, industrial, commercial and agricultural interests of Toulon and vicinity." C. D. McClenahan was elected president of the club; W. U. Sickles, vice president; and M. D. Dewey, secretary and treasurer.

Mention has been made of the establishment of the postoffice at Toulon in 1841 and the appointment of Benjamin Turner as postmaster. Mr. Turner continued in charge of the office until President Buchanan came into office in 1857, when he was succeeded by Oliver Whitaker. In 1915 the office employed two clerks, a man to carry mail from the office to the railroad station and return, five rural carriers, and the total receipts for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1915, amounted to nearly seven thousand dollars. At that time the postmaster was Otto Bameister.

From the single log cabin of John Miller in 1841, Toulon had grown to a city of 1,208 inhabitants in 1910, with many modern homes. It has two fine public school buildings, a public library, Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Congregational and Methodist Episcopal churches, two large grain elevators, two banks, stock yards, several miles of cement sidewalks, a telephone exchange, telegraph and express service, a number of well appointed mercantile establishments, a weekly newspaper, a motion picture theater, an opera house, a base ball club, and on every hand are to be seen evidences of progress and prosperity.

#### CITY OF WYOMING

Wyoming, the largest city in Stark County, also claims the distinction of being the oldest town in the county. It was surveyed in March, 1836, by B. M. Hayes, then surveyor of Putnam County, for Gen. Samuel Thomas, and the plat was filed the following May. The original town contains eighteen blocks or squares, one of which was set aside by General Thomas for a public square. William Street, the northern boundary, is the line between Essex and Toulon townships, the plat being entirely within Essex Township. The other streets running east and west are Main, Smith and Agard. Beginning at the west line of the plat the north and south streets are numbered from First to Seventh, inclusive. Since the original plat was filed additions have been made which increase the area of the corporation to more than four times that of the first town laid out by General

Thomas. The most important additions are Thomas', Dana's, Scott & Wrigley's, and the two additions laid out by Dr. Alfred Castle, sometimes called "North Wyoming."

Gen. Samuel Thomas, the founder of Wyoming, was born in the State of Connecticut, February 2, 1787. When about nineteen or twenty years old he went to the Wyoming Valley, in Pennsylvania. At the beginning of the War of 1812, he was captain of a company of young men who were well drilled in artillery tactics. He offered the services of his company to the Government and the offer was accepted, the company being ordered to Erie, Pennsylvania, where Commodore Perry was engaged in building his fleet. Captain Thomas was placed in command of the post and several times thwarted the British in their attempts to burn Perry's ships before they were completed. His company then joined the army under Gen. William H. Harrison and he was present at the battle of the Thames, where the celebrated Shawnee chief, Tecumseh, was killed. After the war he was appointed inspector of the Pennsylvania militia and in 1828 was commissioned brigadier-general. After serving two terms in the Legislature of Pennsylvania he decided to seek his fortunes in the West, and in October, 1834, he purchased the claim of his brother-in-law, Sylvanus Moore, who had preceded him to Stark County, Ill. When he concluded to lay off a town, his recollections of the Wyoming Valley prompted him to confer that name upon his town. General Thomas was engaged in farming and keeping store until his death, on July 21, 1865. He was one of the leading members of the Methodist Church, a member of the Masonic fraternity, and took an active interest in political affairs as a democrat.

Concerning the early history and growth of Wyoming, Mrs. Shallenberger, in her "Stark County and its Pioneers," says: "For a long time it had little but a name. In a communication to the Lacon Herald in 1838, it is spoken of as having upon its site 'one second hand log smoke house, which serves the double purpose of store and postoffice.' Nevertheless, its name appears upon several maps of that time, and it was a prominent candidate for the county seat. It is said that some speculators interested in the sale of lots, had circulars struck off and circulated in the eastern states, in which this town was represented in 1837 at the head of navigation on Spoon River, with fine warehouses towering aloft and boats lying at the wharf which negroes were loading and unloading, giving the appearance of a busy commercial mart. This may be but a story, still it serves to illustrate the speculating mania of those days; which disease has not yet ceased to afflict mankind, but has only traveled a few degrees farther west."



VIEW NORTH ON NORTH SEVENTH STREET, WYOMING



PUBLIC LIBRARY, WYOMING

LIBRARY  
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URBANA

Whether the story of the circular be true or not—and it may have been, as such occurrences were by no means rare in those days—Wyoming has passed the point where such subterfuges are necessary to call attention to its commercial importance. In 1865, just after the close of the Civil war, there was a marked increase in the number of inhabitants and in response to a petition the "Town of Wyoming" was duly incorporated under the laws of Illinois. Unfortunately the early records of the village under this first government have not been preserved. In fact, but little attention was paid to municipal matters until after the completion of the two railroads in 1871. Then a more active interest was awakened and in 1872 A. G. Hammond, Otis T. Dyer, Perry H. Smith, A. J. Conover and C. Collier were elected trustees. In the organization of the board Perry H. Smith was elected president and Mr. Collier, clerk.

In the spring of 1898 a census was taken, which showed the number of inhabitants to be 1,311. An ordinance was then passed by the board of trustees dividing the town into three wards and ordering an election to determine whether or not Wyoming should be incorporated as a city under the general laws of the state. The voting places were designated as follows: First Ward, Engine House No. 2, on Main Street; Second Ward, Engine House No. 1, on the north side of William Street; Third Ward, King Brothers' store, on the south side of William Street. The election was held on April 19, 1898, and a majority of the citizens cast their votes in favor of a city government.

A special meeting of the old board of trustees was then held on April 26, 1898, for the purpose of inaugurating the new régime. As this was the last meeting of the town officials under the old village system, it may be of interest to know who the men were that changed Wyoming from a village to a city. C. P. McCorkle was president of the board; W. E. Nixon, clerk; H. B. Brown, J. A. Klock, M. P. Ryan, W. J. Townsend, Marshall Winn and Peter Lane, trustees. The first and most important business of the special meeting was to appoint the 19th day of May as the date of the first election for city officers. On that date S. R. Perkins was chosen mayor; A. W. Higbee, Henry Duckworth, Fred Stevenson, Fred Ditewig, H. B. Brown and C. F. Hamilton, trustees; Ernest Mortimer, clerk; M. H. Lutes, treasurer.

In 1899 A. J. Harty was elected mayor and served until 1905, when he was succeeded by John W. Smith. George F. Garden was elected mayor in 1909 and was succeeded by the present incumbent, William H. Hartz, in 1913. The other members of the city govern-

ment in 1915 were: Frank Jacobs, clerk; Charles Peve, treasurer; F. S. Foster, Elting Arganbright, Charles Ingram, C. F. Scott, A. C. Cooper and A. C. Stagg, aldermen.

#### THE POSTOFFICE

As stated in the chapter on Township History, the first postoffice in Stark County was established in the Essex Settlement in 1833, with Isaac B. Essex as postmaster. When Gen. Samuel Thomas came to the county in 1834 he was accompanied by several others, among whom was a man named William Godley. Two years later the Town of Wyoming was platted and a movement was started to secure the removal of the postoffice to the new town. This project was favored by the people living about Oseeola Grove and those living along the Spoon River above the Essex Settlement, as a matter of convenience, and a petition was circulated asking for the removal of the office and the appointment of William Godley as postmaster. The petition was granted and the new appointee, accompanied by James Holgate, went to the Essex dwelling to receive possession of the property appertaining to the postoffice. What happened upon their arrival there is thus told by Mrs. Shallenberger:

"Mr. Holgate soon noticed indications of a coming storm in the countenance and conduct of Mrs. Essex. She was washing when they entered, and for awhile continued her occupation with a vim that astonished her visitors, rubbing and scrubbing almost furiously, then she deliberately turned from her tub, wiped her arms and hands, sat down and gave them her opinion of men who would steal a postoffice, in terms which those gentlemen can never forget. Later in the day a neighbor coming in and observing she was excited, inquired the cause, when she made the apt, but petulant, play upon their names, Mr. Clifford has recorded, saying: 'God Almighty and Hellsgate have come and taken away our postoffice.' Surely enough to upset any woman, and coming on washday at that!"

It could hardly have been the income that at that time made Mr. Essex so desirous of retaining the postoffice, but rather the prestige it gave him in the settlement. The affair created some strife between the settlements on the lower and upper portions of the Spoon River, but the office remained at Wyoming and in time the affair was forgotten.

At the close of the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1915, the Wyoming postoffice showed receipts of about five thousand dollars, em-



ployed two people in the office and four rural carriers who delivered mail daily to a large tract of the surrounding country. P. B. Colwell was then postmaster.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT

On April 7, 1890, an ordinance was passed by the village board granting a franchise to R. C. Jordan & Company to light the Town of Wyoming with electricity. It seems that the recipients of this favor failed to do anything under the provisions of the franchise, and on July 6, 1892, another ordinance relating to the subject was passed, giving to E. B. Hillman & Company, of Peoria, authority "to construct, maintain and operate an electric light and power plant," fixing the rates to be charged by the firm, and containing provisions for the purchase of the plant by the village. Soon after the passage of the ordinance, Mr. Hillman and his associates began the construction of a power-house just west of the Rock Island Railroad station, setting poles and running wires through the streets, and before the close of the year Wyoming was rejoicing in the fact that it had an electric lighting system in operation.

On November 6, 1912, the company was reorganized and incorporated for fifty years, under the name of the Stark County Power Company, with a capital stock of \$20,000, held by Edwin B. Hillman, Adele S. Hillman and Edgar P. Reeder. This company now furnishes electric light and power to the towns of Castleton and Bradford, as well as to the City of Wyoming. Its plant is equipped with modern machinery and the service is as good as is generally found in cities of Wyoming's class.

#### WATERWORKS

The first move toward establishing a system of waterworks for the City of Wyoming was the passage of an ordinance by the city council on April 22, 1902, granting to S. V. Deem, of Galva, Ill., a franchise to construct a water system at a cost of \$28,000, the life of the franchise to be twenty years. Mr. Deem carried out the provisions of the ordinance and the waterworks were completed the following year.

On March 7, 1904, the city council passed an ordinance entitled the "Waterworks Purchase Ordinance," under the provisions of which the city purchased the entire plant from S. V. Deem for \$30,685. The first bond, or waterworks certificate, for \$685, was made pay-

able on the first day of April, 1904, and the remaining \$30,000 in certificates of \$1,000 each, payable annually and bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum. The amount of these bonds or certificates outstanding on September 1, 1915, was \$9,000. Both the franchise for the construction of the plant and the purchase ordinance were adopted during the administration of Mayor A. J. Harty.

The system consists of a water tower 100 feet in height, with a capacity of 36,000 gallons: five miles of mains, and a pumping capacity of 200 gallons per minute. The rates charged are 35 cents per 1,000 gallons per month, up to 10,000 gallons, and all over that amount 25 cents per 1,000 gallons per month. The number of consumers on October 1, 1915, was 245. The supply comes from a deep well and the quality of the water is excellent.

#### PUBLIC PARKS

Wyoming has two public parks—the public square laid out by General Thomas when he platted the town in 1836, and Central Park, at the northeast corner of Galena Avenue and Van Buren Street, in Scott & Wrigley's addition. The latter was set apart at the time the addition was platted as a site for the courthouse in the event Wyoming secured the county seat, which the people were then trying to obtain. Both are real "beauty spots," being provided with band-stands, seats, swings for the little ones, handsome shade trees, etc., and they form places for recreation and amusement for the people.

#### OTHER PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

About the time the waterworks were completed the subject of a sewer system began to engage the attention of the people. The first sewer, which was constructed by general taxation, runs from a point on the south side of Van Buren Street, opposite Central Park, to the southwestern part of the city, near the cemetery. Since it was built other sewers have been added from time to time by special assessments until Wyoming has a method of disposing of its sewage that is as good as that found in most cities of its size.

The fire department is a volunteer organization, but is marked by efficiency and promptness in time of need. Prior to the establishment of the city government two engine houses were built by the municipality—one on the north side of William Street and the other



STREET SCENE IN BRADFORD

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

on the south side of the same street--and both were supplied with approved fire-fighting apparatus. With the completion of the waterworks an additional supply of hose was purchased, to be attached to the hydrants in case of fire, and this assured ample fire protection for all ordinary occasions.

Within recent years Wyoming has given considerable attention to building sidewalks and oiling the roadways of the streets. The result is several miles of excellent concrete sidewalks and dustless streets that makes the little city one of the cleanest in the State of Illinois.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The fair grounds of the Wyoming Agricultural Society are located in the eastern part of the city, a short distance east of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and within easy walking distance of the business district. The first fair was held here in September, 1881.

Besides being the oldest town in the county, Wyoming claims the honor of having the first frame house. A year or two after the town was started by General Thomas, Whitney Smith erected a small frame building, which he used for a store, and it is generally conceded that this was the first frame structure of any kind to be erected in Stark County.

Two modern public school buildings, one known as the South Side School and the other as the North Side, furnish excellent educational facilities for the city. During the school year of 1914-15 eleven teachers were employed.

Wyoming has two banks, a public library, a weekly newspaper, a number of mercantile houses that compare favorably with those of larger cities, Congregational, Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist churches, grain elevators, lumber and coal yards, hotel and restaurants, a large poultry house, a motion picture theater, an opera house, a baseball club, a large number of cozy homes, and in 1910 reported a population of 1,506. Being located at the junction of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroads, it is the principal shipping point for a rich agricultural district in Essex, Penn, Toulon and Valley townships and large quantities of grain and livestock are handled here annually.

#### BRADFORD

Bradford, the third largest town in the county, is situated in the northeastern part of the county, the original plat being in sections 23

and 26, Osecola Township. It was surveyed on April 27, 1854, by Sylvester F. Ottman, then county surveyor, for Bradford S. Foster and derived its name from the Christian name of the proprietor. In making the survey, Mr. Ottman located Main Street on the section line. North of this is one tier of lots. The next street south is Arbor and South Street forms the southern boundary of the original town. Between Main and Arbor (at first called Bowery) streets was left a "market square," and north of Main Street was a public square, intersected by a short street called Park. This square was vacated by a vote of the citizens at an election held on September 22, 1869. The north and south streets in the original plat were Peoria, Park and Elm, and the total number of lots was thirty-seven. Since then Foster's and Phenix's first and second additions have extended the limits of the town toward the south and west, and Drawyer's, Pilgrim's, Real's and some minor additions have extended the limits northward and eastward into sections 24 and 25 until the corporation includes about one square mile.

In the fall of 1869, when it became certain that the Dixon, Peoria & Hannibal (now the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy) Railroad was to be built through Bradford, the town experienced its first boom. A number of energetic, progressive men bought lots and established homes and business houses. The town was incorporated on August 13, 1869, and M. S. Curtiss was elected the first president of the board of trustees. At the general election held on November 4, 1873, the question of incorporating under the general laws of the state was carried by a substantial majority and the present form of municipal government was shortly afterward inaugurated. Joshua Prouty was elected the first president of the board under the new charter. In 1915 the village government was composed of Albert Deyo, president; George A. Marsh, clerk; R. W. Sharp, Walter Scholes, W. S. Ribley, R. C. Hay, O. C. Boyd and R. D. Lackman, trustees.

A postoffice was established at Bradford soon after the town was surveyed, but the name of the first postmaster could not be learned by the writer. Some idea of the growth of the town and the development of its business interests may be gained from the knowledge that in 1915 the postoffice had risen to a third-class office, with annual receipts of about four thousand dollars, employing two people and being the source of five rural routes that distribute mail daily over a large territory. T. J. Mowbray was then postmaster.

On September 7, 1896, "in compliance with a vote of the legal voters at a special election," the board of trustees passed an ordinance

to issue five bonds of \$1,000 each, the first due in five years and the last in nine, with interest at 6 per cent per annum, for the purpose of installing a system of waterworks for the village. A deep well was sunk, a pumphouse erected, a large tank mounted upon a tall tower and a reserve tank constructed, mains laid upon the principal streets, and in the summer of 1897 the water was turned on.

The fire department was organized under the provisions of an ordinance passed on April 4, 1904. The force consists of twenty-five men (volunteers) and the equipment of hosecarts, the pressure from the waterworks being sufficient to furnish enough water to extinguish any fire that is likely to occur. The members of the department meet at regular intervals for drill and instruction.

Bradford has two banks, a weekly newspaper, churches of several faiths, a fine public school building, in which eight teachers are employed, well kept streets, good sidewalks, several well stocked stores, two large grain elevators, a number of handsome residences, and the visitor to the town is impressed by the air of prosperity and commercial activity. In 1910 the population of Bradford was 770.

#### LAFAYETTE

Located on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, six miles west of Toulon and near the Knox County line, is the incorporated Village of Lafayette. The original plat—blocks 1 to 10, of eight lots each—was surveyed on July 7, 1836, by George A. Charles, then county surveyor of Knox County, for William Dunbar. On the north of this part of the town is Monroe Street. From Monroe Street it extends southward to Franklin, bounded on the east by Hodgson Street and on the west by Timber. Additions have since been made until now the town embraces forty squares of eight lots each. The north and south streets are Willow, Mulberry, East Main, Hodgson, Main and Timber, the last named forming the western limits of the town. Beginning at the north, the east and west streets are Monroe, Jefferson, Lafayette, Washington, Jackson, Franklin, Madison and Adams, and there is one row of blocks south of Adams Street. The northern tier of lots in block 20 and the southern tier of block 21 were taken to form a public square, which is intersected by Jackson Street. The railroad cuts off the north side of this square and the remainder of it forms a pleasant little public park. The additions to the first plat were made by Jonathan Hodgson, Henry Dunbar and John Lundy, August 8, 1836.



One of the first houses in Lafayette was built by William Dunbar, the "Old Hatter," mentioned in a former chapter. Few lots were sold until about 1842 and 1843, when Asahel Holmes, George W. Jackson, George W. Dunbar, James J. Wilson, Joshua Woodbury, William Wheeler and a few others all bought property in the new town. Other early settlers were Peter F. Miner, Daniel J. and Theodore F. Hurd, William D. Runyan, Jehial Bouton, James B. Lewis, Gilbert Ward, Thomas N. Fitch, Walter Hock, James Dunn and James E. White, some of whom located as early as 1837. Several of these Lafayette pioneers afterward became prominent in the affairs of Stark County.

Jesse C. Ware was the first merchant and is said to have been the first man to build a house within the limits of the town. Theodore F. Hurd and Barnabas M. Jackson were other early merchants, and Ira Reed opened a shoe shop as early as 1838. Some years later a few enterprising individuals organized a stock company to build a carding mill and woolen factory, but it proved to be a financial failure.

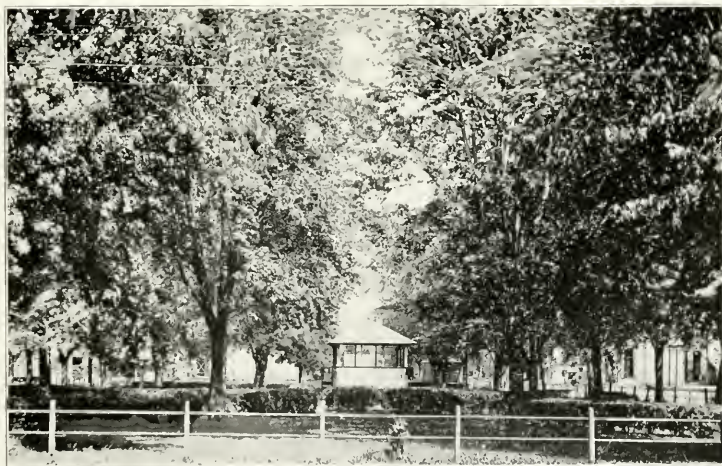
At an election held in 1869 the vote on the question of incorporation was forty-one for to thirteen against the proposition. The first board of trustees was composed of Thomas W. Ross, J. H. Nichols, Daniel J. Hurd, Dennis Lee and James Martin. The government thus established existed until September, 1872, when the vote on the question of obtaining a new charter was twenty-four for to eighteen opposed. The first trustees under the new charter were M. S. Barnett, James Martin, Samuel White, B. H. Snyder, Daniel J. Hurd and Dr. J. H. Nichols. The election of clerk was declared illegal and C. P. Jackson was elected in 1874. In 1915 J. H. White was president of the village board; F. T. Gelvin, clerk; Joshua Grant, Samuel Hanks, James Norton, S. E. White, V. H. Brown and Wiley Plankel, trustees.

Some years ago the village board granted to Jesse S. Atherton a franchise to build, equip and operate an electric light plant. Mr. Atherton built the plant and conducted it for some time when he sold out to some parties in Galva, Ill., and Lafayette is now supplied with light from Galva. The streets of the village are kept well oiled, keeping down the dust; there are several blocks of good cement sidewalks; the village has a commodious public school building in which four teachers are employed during the school year. Formerly there were several churches, but they have all fallen into disuse except the Methodist Episcopal, which is now the only active denomination.

The business interests of the village include a bank, several stores



BANK AND PUBLIC LIBRARY, LA FAYETTE



PUBLIC PARK, LA FAYETTE

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

handling practically all lines of goods, grain elevators, restaurants, etc., and there are two large nurseries near the town that ship fruit trees and plants. Lafayette also has a public library, the gift of Mrs. Reed, an account of which will be found in the chapter on Educational Development. The population in 1910 was 287.

The smaller villages of the county, those not incorporated and those that have ceased to exist, are treated in alphabetical order, beginning with

#### CAMP GROVE

Strictly speaking, Camp Grove is no longer in Stark County. It was established at an early date on the lines between Stark and Marshall counties, near the southeast corner of Penn Township. Among the early business men here were: J. Townsend and Cyrus Bocock, general merchants; R. G. Fargo, dealer in iron and metals; William Evans, butcher; S. H. Nichols, contractor and builder, and W. J. Townsend, postmaster. When the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad from Peoria to Nelson was built in 1902, it passed about half a mile east of Camp Grove and most of the business concerns "pulled up stakes" and removed to the railroad. About all that is left of the old village is the Catholic Church and cemetery.

#### CASTLETON

This thriving little place is situated in sections 9 and 16 of Penn Township, on the Buda & Rushville division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. It was surveyed by Edwin Butler, surveyor of Stark County, on March 4, 1870, for Dr. Alfred H. Castle, after whom it was named. The original plat shows seven blocks averaging sixteen lots each, the north and south streets being Main, Washington and Lincoln, and the east and west streets, Smith, Sherman and State. Since the original plat was filed three additions have been made to the town—Julg's and Fuller's, of six lots each, and Kissinger's, of forty-five lots. Among the early business concerns of Castleton were Klock & Fleming's grain elevator, Leo Julg's boot and shoe store, D. W. Crum's drug store, G. Wright's hardware and farm implement house, Mrs. Stewart's hotel and H. D. Martin's wagon and paint shop.

The Castleton of 1915 boasts several good mercantile establishments, a branch of Scott, Walters & Rakestraw's bank, three churches, a fine public school building, two grain elevators, a town hall, a number of minor business concerns and many pretty homes. The streets and

sidewalks are in good condition and the town is lighted by electricity from the plant of the Stark County Power Company at Wyoming. It ships considerable quantities of grain and livestock, and in 1910 reported a population of 201.

#### DUNCAN

On June 10, 1870, Edwin Butler, county surveyor, platted the Town of Duncan for Dr. Alfred H. Castle, with six blocks (104 lots) though blocks 1 and 4 were afterward vacated. The streets running north and south are Monroe, Adams and Jefferson, and those running east and west are Main, Washington and Galena. Duncan is located in section 35, Essex Township, on the Buda & Rushville division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, seven miles south of Wyoming. F. F. Brockway and John H. Slater were among the first merchants of the town; George Fautz opened a hardware store, William Heath conducted a grocery store and a hotel, John Barker was the village blacksmith, and Dr. T. C. Thomas was probably the first resident physician. A postoffice was started soon after the village was laid out in 1870, with W. H. Miller as postmaster.

Although a shipping point of considerable importance, Duncan has never grown to be a town of any great proportions. Rand & McNally give the population in 1910 as 125. Scott, Walters & Rakestraw, of Wyoming, have a branch bank at Duncan. The village has general stores, a grain elevator, lumber yard, hotel, several small shops, a church and a public school.

#### ELMIRA

W. R. Sandham, of Wyoming, who has given considerable attention to the origin of Stark County names, says: "Elmira is the name given to a postoffice which was first established about the year 1837, where the present Village of Osceola is now located. It was named by Oliver Whitaker, its first postmaster, after his former home, Elmira, New York. About the year 1845 the postoffice was moved to its present location on the west side of Spoon River and the name moved with it."

However, the Village of Elmira had its beginning some two years before the removal of the postoffice as mentioned by Mr. Sandham. In 1843 Ambrose Fuller entered the quarter section of land upon which the village stands and opened a store. Fuller's store soon

became a sort of rallying point for the people of the neighborhood, the Methodists and Presbyterians located churches there, several families purchased lots and built dwellings, thus starting a town. No official plat of Elmira was ever filed with the county recorder, though part of the town is known as "Parsons' subdivision." In 1915 Elmira had two churches, two general stores, some small business concerns, a public school and a few residences. Rand & McNally give the population in 1910 as 76. The postoffice has been discontinued and mail is now delivered by rural carrier from Toulon.

#### LOMBARDVILLE

On June 15, 1870, Edwin Butler, then county surveyor, surveyed the Town of Lombardville for Julia A. Lombard and Dr. Alfred H. Castle, and the plat was filed on the 8th of July following. Lombardville is located on the Buda & Rushville division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, on the line dividing sections 2 and 11, Osceola Township. The original plat shows 104 lots, with State, Franklin, Lombard and Duncan streets running north and south, and Howard, Main and Washington run east and west. The hotel and elevator were completed in the fall of 1870, the Lombardville Mining Company began operations about the same time, and for some time the village showed signs of becoming a town of some importance. But the coal deposits were worked out, much of the trade was diverted to Bradford and other towns and Lombardville never came up to the expectations of its founders. A public school, a general store and grain elevators are the principal institutions. Mail is delivered by rural carrier from the postoffice at Bradford.

#### MASSILLON

Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "Massillon was situated seven miles nearly due south of the present Town of Toulon, not far from the southern boundary of the county. Its projector and proprietor was Stephen Trickle. Date of survey, April, 1837."

This is the only written account of Massillon that the writer has been able to find. It is known that one of the precincts of the county was named "Massillon," from which it may be inferred that the town was once a place of some consequence, though it is now nothing more than a memory.



## MODENA

The Village of Modena is located in the southeast quarter of section 1, in the northeastern part of Toulon Township and on the west bank of Spoon River. It was surveyed on March 24, 1853, for Miles A. and Williston K. Fuller. The plat was filed in July and shows thirty-one lots, with Main and Second streets running north and south and Locust and Chestnut, east and west. The flour mill and the coal mines in the immediate vicinity were the principal industries of early days. A. Y. Fuller, who was one of the early purchasers of lots, opened a general store, and B. A. Newton also conducted a store here for some time. Mr. Sandham says the name was suggested by Modena in Italy. A Baptist Church was erected here about 1856. In 1915 a general store and the public school were the principal features of the village, which reported a population of 35 in 1910. It is on one of the rural mail routes from the postoffice at Wyoming.

## MORSE

This is one of the new towns of the county and owes its existence to the building of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad through the county in 1901-02. It is located in the extreme northeast corner of the Township of Osceola and is only a short distance east of Lombardville. No official plat of the village was ever filed in the office of the county recorder, but an atlas of the county, published in 1907, shows fourteen lots—six north and eight south of the railroad station. Rand & McNally give the population in 1910 as 50. Mail is delivered by rural carrier from Bradford.

## MOULTON

The extinct town of Moulton was located near the northern border of Essex Township, about three miles west of Wyoming, in the Indian Creek Valley. It was surveyed in August, 1836, by Robert Schuyler, Russell H. Nevins, William Couch, David Lee and Abijah Fisher. George and William Sammis had a store on the site at the time the town was laid out. At one time Moulton had aspirations to become the county seat of Stark County, but Toulon won that honor and the close proximity of Wyoming also contributed to Moulton's downfall. A frame house was erected there by Eugenius Frum a year or two after the town was platted, but this building was afterward pur-



chased by Benjamin Turner and removed to Tonton, where it stood until 1886.

## OSCEOLA

The village of Osceola is situated in the southeast quarter of section 11, Elmira Township, a small portion of the place extending southward into section 14. The first settlers in this part of the county came late in the year 1835. Among them were Giles C. Dana, Isaac Spencer, James Buswell, Thomas Watts and the Pratts, one of whom was a physician. Mrs. Shallenberger says: "They came out under the auspices of Maj. Robert Moore, who encouraged emigration hither, with a view to building up a town, which he had surveyed and called Osceola."

If such a town was ever surveyed it failed to become a reality, though the first settler named the grove in which they built their cabins "Osceola Grove," after the celebrated Seminole Indian leader in the Florida war. When the postoffice was established there in 1837 it was named Elmira, as already stated, and a settlement grew up around the postoffice. After the removal of the postoffice to the present village of Elmira, the village where it was first established took the name of Osceola. Being some distance from a railroad, the village has never grown to any considerable proportions, but it forms a trading point and meeting place for the people in the northeastern part of Elmira Township. The population in 1910 was only 55. It has a general store, a Baptist Church, a Methodist Church and parsonage, a public school and a few dwellings, and is on one of the rural mail routes from Neponset, in Bureau County.

## PLEASANT GREEN

An old map of Stark County shows the settlement of Pleasant Green near the center of section 33, Osceola Township. It was never formally laid out as a town, but a rural postoffice was maintained here for some time in early days and some coal was mined in the vicinity. The district school known as the "Pleasant Green" school is all that is left to tell the story.

## PUCKERBRUSH

This is another settlement that "just grewed." It is located in section 7, Penn Township, a little south of the site of the old village of Walden, and consists of six lots along the south side of the highway. Just how the settlement obtained its name is uncertain.

## SLACKWATER

Just east of the Spoon river, in section 33, Essex Township, is the old village of Slackwater, which at one time was a trading point and neighborhood center of some importance. The building of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and the founding of the town of Duncan, only a mile and half east on the railroad, robbed Slackwater of its prestige and it sank into insignificance.

## SPEER

While the Peoria & Nelson branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was under construction, James A. Speer, who owned a farm on the line of the railroad in section 36, Valley Township, conceived the idea of founding a town. Accordingly, on December 5, 1901, Henry H. Oliver, county surveyor, platted the town of Speer, in the northwest quarter of the above named section. The original plat showed twenty-four lots west of the railroad, but on April 15, 1903, Mr. Oliver made a revised plat of the original town and Speer's first addition thereto. Front Street runs north and south next to the railroad and farther west is McKinley Avenue. The streets running east and west are Main and South, and one not named on the plat. Speer soon came into prominence as a trading and shipping point for the southeastern part of the county. It reported a population of 150 in 1910; has general and hardware stores, a bank, livery barn, planing mill, postoffice, lumber yard, grain elevators, and is one of the flourishing little towns of Stark County.

## STARK

Five miles east of Wyoming, on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, is the little village of Stark, which grew up soon after the railroad was completed, but was never officially platted. A postoffice was established in the early '70s; Simpson & Smith and Charles N. Hull opened general stores; Joseph Anderson began dealing in grain and drain tile, and a few other business enterprises were established. In 1910 the population was 75. It has a large grain elevator, general stores, a Congregational Church, etc., and does a good business in shipping grain and livestock. It derives its name from the county.

## STARWANO

No plat of this settlement—for it can hardly be called a town—was ever recorded. It is located in West Jersey Township, near the

eastern boundary. A Methodist Church was organized here at an early date and is still in existence, but the commercial activity of Starwano has departed.

## STRINGTOWN

In the atlas of Stark County, published in 1907, is shown a thickly settled neighborhood in the southwestern part of Essex Township (sections 30 and 31) which has long been known as "Stringtown." Its location is almost identical with that of the old Town of Massillon previously mentioned. A church and public school are the only institutions worthy of note.

## WADY PETRA

This little town with the oriental name was platted on June 2, 1873, by Edwin Butler, then surveyor of Stark County, for Mrs. Anna K. Chase. It is located on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, in section 31, Valley Township, only about one mile east of the Village of Stark. Front Street runs parallel to the railroad and a square farther east is Chase Street. The north and south streets are Main and Hamilton. The original plat shows fifty-five lots. Wady Petra is a typical little railroad station, with the usual local business enterprises. In 1910 the population was given as forty-five. Mail is delivered by rural carrier from the postoffice at Stark.

## WALDEN

The old Town of Walden was situated in the north side of section 7, Penn Township, just across the Spoon River from Modena. It is said to have taken its name from Dexter Wall, and was sometimes written "Wallden." Mr. Wall built a steam mill there at an early date and a general store was opened, but the name of the pioneer merchant has apparently been forgotten. "Wall's Schoolhouse," which stood not far from the mill, was a favorite place for holding religious services by ministers of different denominations. In time Mr. Wall removed his mill to Wyoming and the Town of Walden disappeared from the map.

## WEST JERSEY

Early in the year 1856 Jacob Young employed Carson Berfield, who had previously served as county surveyor, to lay off a town

almost in the exact geographical center of West Jersey Township, which town was named West Jersey. Seminary and Jersey streets and Plum Alley are shown on the original plat as the thoroughfares. The plat was filed for record on February 19, 1856, and ten years later only twenty-four lots had been sold. During the next twenty years the growth was "slow but sure," and in 1886 about seventy lots had been sold. Among the early industries and business houses of West Jersey may be mentioned Snediker's mill, John Catton's coal mines, Giwitts & Son's planing mill, W. H. Little's harness shop, William Atkinson's blacksmith shop and W. H. Johnson's store. The Methodist Church was built about 1869. A postoffice was established here before the Civil war, but it has been discontinued and mail is now addressed to Toulon and delivered by rural carrier. West Jersey has a public school building, a church, general stores, some smaller business concerns, a hall for public entertainments, and in 1910 reported a population of seventy.

#### POSTOFFICES

With the introduction of the free rural delivery system, several of the postoffices of Stark County were discontinued. The United States Postal Guide for July, 1915, gives the following offices in the county, the figures in parentheses following the name indicating the number of rural mail routes: Bradford (5); Castleton, Duncan, Lafayette (2); Speer (1); Stark (1); Toulon (5); Wyoming (4). Every office in the county is authorized to issue money orders. Those at Bradford, Toulon and Wyoming issue international money orders and are postal savings depositories.

## CHAPTER IX

### MILITARY HISTORY

WAR OF 1812—BLACK HAWK WAR—WAR WITH MEXICO—WAR OF 1861-'65—CONDITIONS LEADING UP TO THE WAR—THE SLAVERY QUESTION—COMPROMISE LEGISLATION—KANSAS-NEBRASKA BILL—POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OF 1860—SECESSION OF THE SLAVE STATES—FALL OF FORT SUMTER—CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS—WAR MEETING AT TOULON—ILLINOIS' RESPONSE—EARLY ENLISTMENTS—BRIEF HISTORIES OF THE REGIMENTS IN WHICH STARK COUNTY WAS REPRESENTED—ROSTER OF STARK COUNTY COMPANIES—MISCELLANEOUS INFANTRY ENLISTMENTS—CAVALRY SERVICE—ARTILLERY—SOLDIERS' MONUMENT—THE WORK AT HOME.

At the time of the War of 1812 there was not a single white man living within the present borders of Stark County. As previously mentioned, the United States Government, soon after the close of that war, set apart a large tract of land in Illinois, including the present County of Stark, to be given to those who had served as volunteers during the war. A few veterans of the War of 1812 afterward became residents of the county, though the most of them sold their land warrants to speculators for a small pittance. In the fall of 1860 a meeting of old soldiers of 1812 was held at Toulon, at which probably a dozen were present.

In the Black Hawk war of 1832 the name of Thomas Essex appears upon one of the muster rolls—the only one from Stark County—though the county was not then organized and there were but few white men living within its limits.

On March 1, 1845, Congress passed a bill to annex the Republic of Texas to the United States. This brought on a war with Mexico, which country claimed Texas, and Gen. Zachary Taylor was sent with the "Army of Occupation" to hold the territory until the boundary question could be settled. Taylor fought the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, defeating the Mexicans in both engagements, and on May 11, 1846, two days after the battle of Resaca de

la Palma, Congress declared that "war already exists by act of the Mexican government," placed a fund of \$10,000,000 at the disposal of the administration, and authorized the President to accept the services of 50,000 volunteers.

Within a few days Illinois offered the President 8,370 men, but only 3,720 were accepted. These men formed the first six regiments of Illinois Infantry. A few Stark County men were included in the enlistments, but in the absence of muster rolls it is impossible to give their names.

#### THE WAR OF 1861-65

Soon after the establishment of the American Republic, the slavery question became a "bone of contention" that was gnawed at by politicians for years in nearly every campaign. In 1808, the earliest date at which legislation on the subject could be constitutionally enacted, Congress passed a law abolishing the foreign slave trade. By 1819 seven of the thirteen original states had abolished slavery. Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama had been admitted to the Union as slave states, and Vermont, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois as free states, making eleven of each. This was the situation in 1820, when the people of Missouri asked for admission. After a long and somewhat acrimonious debate, that state was admitted under the provisions of the act known as the "Missouri Compromise," which agreed to the admission of Missouri without any restrictions as to slavery, but expressly stipulated that in all the remaining portion of the Louisiana Purchase north of the line marking the latitude of 36° 30' slavery should be forever prohibited.

The Mexican war gave to the United States a large territory, to which the advocates of slavery laid claim. According to the views of the opponents of slavery, the "Omnibus Bill," or Compromise of 1850, was a violation of the terms of the Missouri Compromise, in that it sought to extend slavery north of the line of 36° 30'. The Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1854 added fresh fuel to the already raging flames. The passage of this bill was one of the principal causes that led to the organization of the republican party, which opposed the extension of slavery beyond the territory where it already existed.

In the political campaign of 1860 some of the southern states announced their intention of withdrawing from the Union in the event of Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency. The people of the North regarded these declarations as idle threats, made solely for political effect. Through a division in the democratic party, Mr. Lin-



SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT, TOULON



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coln was elected and on December 20, 1860, South Carolina proceeded to carry out her threat to withdraw, a convention of delegates, chosen for the purpose, passing an ordinance of secession, declaring that all allegiance to the United States was at an end. Mississippi followed with a similar ordinance on January 9, 1861; Florida, January 10th; Georgia, January 19th; Louisiana, January 26th, and Texas, February 1, 1861. On February 4, 1861, delegates from six of these states (Texas was not represented) met at Montgomery, Alabama, adopted a provisional constitution, elected Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, provisional president, and Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, provisional vice president of the "Confederate States of America." Davis and Stephens were inaugurated on February 22, 1861, the anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

Hence it was that when Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, he found seven states, with an organized government, in open opposition to his administration. Notwithstanding this serious condition of affairs, the President, his immediate advisers and the people of the North generally, entertained the hope that the situation could be met without an open rupture between the North and South, and that the citizens of the seceded states could be persuaded to return to their allegiance. Vain hope!

About the beginning of the year 1861, Maj. Robert Anderson, who was in command of all the defenses of the harbor at Charleston, South Carolina, decided that Fort Sumter offered a better opportunity for defense than Fort Moultrie, where he and his garrison were stationed. Secretly removing his stores and men, he ordered the guns at Fort Moultrie to be spiked, rendering them unfit for service. Major Anderson's action immediately raised a storm of protest from the secessionists. They claimed that the removal to Fort Sumter was a violation of an agreement made with President Buchanan, Lincoln's predecessor. On the other hand the people of the North upheld Anderson and the northern press was almost a unit in demanding that additional supplies be sent to Anderson, and that he be given a force sufficient to hold the fort. President Buchanan was still in office, and not liking to invoke too much criticism from the loyal North, he sent the steamer *Star of the West*, with 250 men and a stock of provisions, munitions of war, etc., to Fort Sumter. On January 9, 1861, as the vessel was passing Morris Island, she was fired upon by a masked battery and forced to turn back. This incident is regarded in the official records as the beginning of the Civil war, though the popular awakening did not come until about three months later.

Early in April, 1861, General Beauregard, who was in command of the Confederate forces at Charleston, opened negotiations with Major Anderson looking to the evacuation of Fort Sumter. Anderson's provisions were running low and on April 11, 1861, he advised General Beauregard that the fort would be vacated on the 15th, unless orders were received from the war department to remain and the needed supplies were sent to the garrison. This answer was not satisfactory to Beauregard, who feared that Anderson might be reinforced before that time. He therefore sent back the reply, at 3:20 A. M. on Friday, April 12, 1861, that within an hour fire would be opened upon the fort. At 4:30 Capt. George Janes, commanding a battery at Fort Johnson, fired the signal gun and the shell burst almost directly over the fort. A few moments later a solid shot from a battery on Cummings Point went crashing against the walls of Fort Sumter. The war had begun.

The garrison responded promptly and the cannonading continued throughout the day. Fire broke out in one of the casemates of the fort, which was observed by the Confederates, who increased their fire, hoping to force a surrender. Anderson held out against desperate odds until Sunday morning, when he was permitted to leave the fort with honors of war, even saluting his flag with fifty guns before hauling it down.

When the telegraph flashed the news of Sumter's surrender through the North, all hope of conciliation was abandoned. Political differences of the past were forgotten in the insult to the flag, and there was but one sentiment: "The Union must and shall be preserved." On Monday, April 15, 1861, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 militia and appealing to "all loyal citizens for state aid in this effort to maintain the laws, integrity, national union, perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs long enough endured."

#### WAR MEETING

The first war meeting in Stark County was held at Toulon on Monday evening, April 15, 1861, the very day that the President issued his call for 75,000 volunteers. Judge Elihu N. Powell presided and James A. Henderson was chosen secretary. George A. Clifford, Dr. William Chamberlain, J. H. Howe, Levi North, Alexander McCoy and Thomas J. Henderson all made short addresses urging the necessity for united action in support of the national administration. Among the resolutions—unanimously adopted—was the following:

"That in the present crisis of our country, we will ignore all mere party considerations and uphold the administration in enforcing the laws North and South, and in putting down rebellion wherever it may arise. And to that end we invoke the entire power of the Government, and we hereby adopt as our motto those memorable words uttered long since by a patriot now in his grave: 'Liberty and Union now and forever, one and inseparable.'"

## ILLINOIS' RESPONSE

When the war commenced the prevailing opinion throughout the North was that it would be of short duration—a mere "breakfast spell." That this view was entertained by the President is seen in his first call for only 75,000 troops, which he thought would be sufficient to suppress the rebellion. Before the conclusion of the conflict over two million loyal citizens of the North had been called into military service. Illinois promptly responded to each call for volunteers and during the war furnished 185,941 infantry, 32,082 cavalry, and 7,277 artillery, a grand total (not including reenlistments) of 225,300 men. Stark County was represented in thirty-six infantry regiments, five cavalry regiments, and the Second Light Artillery. Having furnished six regiments of infantry in the Mexican war, the first regiment that went out from Illinois in 1861 was the

## SEVENTH INFANTRY

This regiment was mustered in at Camp Yates on April 25, 1861, for three months service, during which time it was on guard duty at Alton, Cairo, St. Louis and other points. It was reorganized for the three years' service on July 25, 1861. Early in 1862 it joined the army under Gen. U. S. Grant, took part in the capture of Fort Donelson and the battle of Shiloh, after which it continued in service in Mississippi and Tennessee. It was veteranized in December, 1863, and in Company B of the Veteran Seventh the following men were credited to Stark County: Hugh J. Cosgrove, captain; George H. Martin, first lieutenant; Andrew Nelson and Isaiah V. Bates, sergeants; Alexander Headley and Henry Stauffer, corporals.

Privates—Henry H. Ballentine, Jacob Bogard, Oliver Boggs, Willis Burgess, Silas Chappell, Thomas H. Crowe, John Dawson, Thomas Dawson, John Ditman, Henry Duckworth, Thomas Falconer, John L. Foulk, John Garvin, Jasper Graves, William W.

Isenberg, James L. Jarman, John Martin, John Otto, Patrick Philben, Franklin Pratt, Timothy Ratcliff, Henry Rouse, John Rouse, William Shipley, Mason Stauffer, Jotham K. Taylor, Stephen Timmons, Edward H. Trickle, David White, Henry H. Witcher, Benjamin Witter and William Zumwalt. The regiment was mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, July 9, 1865.

#### EARLY ENLISTMENTS

In several of the first regiments that went out from the state there were one or more Stark County men. Henry Speers was a recruit in Company C, Eleventh Infantry; Thomas Carroll was a private in Company H, Twelfth Infantry, until wounded and discharged in August, 1862; Michael Casey, Thomas Doyle, James Maloney and Frank Williamson were enrolled in Company C, Fourteenth Infantry; in the same regiment Thomas J. Marshall and John Norris served in Company E; Livingston Sharrach, Company G; and Samuel A. Patten was a corporal in Company H; Thomas D. Bonar and David W. Snyder enlisted as privates in Company D, Seventeenth Infantry, in May, 1861; and in Company F, Eighteenth Infantry, were George W. Bowers, Charles McLaughlin, John Madden and John P. Smith.

#### NINETEENTH INFANTRY

Not until the organization of the Nineteenth Infantry, in June, 1861, was Stark County enabled to furnish a full company for the volunteer service. Before the President issued his first call for troops, Capt. Charles Stuart had commenced the formation of a company called the "Elmira Rifles." This company was mustered in as Company B, Nineteenth Infantry, which regiment was commanded by Col. John B. Turehin. At the time of the muster in it was officered as follows:

Captain, Charles Stuart; first lieutenant, Stephen W. Hill; second lieutenant, Alexander Murchison. Captain Stuart resigned on July 15, 1862, and Lieutenant Murchison was promoted to the command of the company, Lieutenant Hill having resigned in November, 1861.

Sergeants—John S. Pashley, William Jackson (promoted first lieutenant), John H. Hunter (promoted second lieutenant), James G. Boardman, James Montooth.

Corporals—James Jackson, Charles H. Brace, Robert A. Turn-

bull, Joseph Blanchard, John G. Lamper, Thomas Robinson, John T. Thornton (promoted second lieutenant), George B. Hutchinson.

Isaiah V. Bates and Isaae M. Spencer enlisted as musicians, and John Douglas was the company's wagoner.

Privates—John Q. Adams, David W. Aldrich, David Allen, James Atherton, Isaae Bannister, John Blackburn, Charles Blackwell, Frederick P. Bloom, Lemuel D. Bullis, John Bourke, Henry Burrows, William A. Cade, Owen Carlin, Julius A. Case, DeForest Chamberlain, James Cinnamon, Asa Clark, Walter Clark, George Comstock, Adrian Coon, Urban Coon, Lewis Corsan, Aaron T. Courier, Francis Crowden, George Crowden, Henry F. Davison, William Douglas, Leonard C. Drawyer, Henry Drury, George Dugan, Edward Ervin, Adam G. Fell, Robert Fell, William H. Flemming, Philip A. Galley, Springer Galley, Reuben Gardiner, Charles Greenfield, Wesley Hall, Chester P. Harsh, Leonard D. Henderson, Frank Horrigan, James Hutchins, Alfred S. Hurment, James O. Ines, John Ines, Martin Ines, William Ines, William Ingles, David Jackson, William Johnson, Edward M. Jordan, Willard Jordan, Arnold Kempion, John L. Kennedy, Isaac Kenyon, John M. Lamper, Joseph M. Leacox, Charles N. Leeson, Madison Linsley, Alonzo Luce, John McConchie, John McSherry, Joseph C. Meigs, James Merrill, Samuel Montooth, Daniel J. Moon, Columbus Morgan, Comfort Morgan, Cornelius Morgan, William N. Nelson, William H. Newcomer, Thomas W. Oziah, Joseph N. Park, George P. Richer, George N. Ryerson, Robert T. Scott, George T. Sharrer, Henry C. Shull, John O. Spaulding, George H. Stone, Albert Terwilliger, Elijah N. Terwilliger, James G. Turnbull, Thomas Turnbull, Amos Vinson, Edwin D. Way, John Webber, Fred H. Whitaker, Lewis Williams, Henry B. Worth.

On the 12th of July the regiment was ordered to Quincy, where it arrived the next day, and was immediately sent to the line of the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad in Missouri. It was next sent to St. Louis, where it remained for a few weeks, when it joined General Buell's Army of the Ohio in Tennessee. After seeing the Nineteenth drill, General Buell pronounced it the best drilled regiment he had seen and assigned Colonel Turehin to the command of the Eighth Brigade, Third Division, Army of the Ohio. The regiment was actively engaged in the second day's battle at Shiloh; took part in the battle of Perryville, Ky.; formed part of General Negley's division in the battle of Chickamanga, and took part in the military operations around Chattanooga in the fall of 1863, especially the

engagement at Missionary Ridge. In the spring of 1864 it joined the army commanded by Gen. W. T. Sherman for the Atlanta campaign and took part in several engagements before it was mustered out on July 9, 1864.

#### THIRTY-THIRD INFANTRY

The next regiment in which Stark County was represented by any considerable number of men was the Thirty-third, in which a large part of Company B came from little old Stark. Of that company C. Judson Gill was mustered in as first lieutenant and promoted to captain in January, 1863. Nelson G. Gill, who was mustered in as a sergeant was promoted to first lieutenant, and Walter T. Hall, who entered the service as a corporal, was promoted to sergeant.

Privates—Jesse Armstrong, William Biggs, Newton G. B. Brown (promoted second lieutenant), Calvin Butler, George Dewey, Daniel Donovan, Otis T. Dyer, Harrison W. Ellis, Levi T. Ellis, Walter A. Fell, George Fezler, Alvin Galley, Hugh Y. Godfrey, Charles Green (transferred to the regimental band), Charles C. Hotchkiss, Murray Hotchkiss, Edward H. Ingraham, Charles S. Johnson, George A. Lowman (transferred to regimental band), Andrew McKee, William J. R. Mayo, Thomas W. Rule, Charles Shinn, John H. Stickney, Sanford Strowbridge, Lewis Thomas, Andrew Turnbull.

John Peterson and Adam Rush served in Company K of the Thirty-third, which was mustered into the United States service in August, 1861. It served in Missouri and Arkansas until the spring of 1863, when it was ordered to join General Grant's army for the siege of Vicksburg. The regiment was in action at Champion's Hill, Port Gibson and the Black River Bridge. After the surrender of Vicksburg it took part in the battle of Jackson, Miss. In August, 1863, it was assigned to the Thirteenth Corps and ordered to Louisiana. Its last active military service was in the movement against Mobile in the spring of 1865, and on November 24, 1865, it was mustered out.

#### THIRTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY

About the time the company known as the Elmira Rifles was organized, the patriotic people of Goshen Township organized the "Lafayette Rifles," under command of Capt. Charles V. Dickinson. The company entered the service as Company B, Thirty-seventh Infantry, with Charles V. Dickinson as captain; Cassimir P. Jackson, first lieutenant; Francis A. Jones, second lieutenant; David L. Ash,



William N. Perry and Fayette Lacey, sergeants; Oliver S. Risdon, Thomas J. McDaniel, Luman P. Himes, Chillon B. Redfield, Joshua S. Dudley, James S. Lundy, John A. Perry and William Nicholson, corporals; and George Ransom, musician. Lieutenant Jackson resigned on July 9, 1862, and Lieutenant Jones was promoted to the vacancy, Sergeant Ash being made second lieutenant. Corporals Risdon and McDaniel were promoted sergeants, and Corporal Himes rose to the rank of first lieutenant.

Privates—Andrew Anderson, John Anderson, Aaron S. Anshutz, David Anshutz, William W. Atkins, Joseph Barlow, William H. Barney, Alva W. Brown, Emery S. Buffum, John W. Buffum, John Charleson, Lucius Church, William H. Craig, Henry B. Dexter, William T. Dickinson, Eldridge B. Driscoll, John A. Eddy, Michael M. Emery, Luther Fitch, Martin Fitch, Cummings Force, Matthew T. Godfrey, Nelson Grant, N. G. Hilliard, Charles F. Himes, George H. Hurd, W. H. Hurd, Thomas Hughes, Norman Ives, Moses S. Jones, Julius Kelsey, Alvin Kiem, Daniel Kiem, Anthony Kennard, Thomas R. Lake, Dennis Lee, James E. Lee, Samuel Lemoine, Daniel Lundy, Chauncey R. Miner, Benjamin H. Morgan, Ira Newton, Joseph H. Newton, William J. Noran, David Nowlan, Edward Perkins, William J. Pilgrim, John Reed, Robert C. Reed, George W. Rouse, Hartford J. Rowe, John Sackrisson, Henry Sipe, David W. Snyder, Henry W. Wilbur, Martin Wilcox, Samuel W. Young.

The Thirty-seventh was mustered in at Chicago early in September, 1861, and soon afterward was ordered to Arkansas. In January, 1862, it was in the battle of Pea Ridge, after which it was engaged at Fayetteville, Newtonia and Prairie Grove. During the remainder of its service it was in a number of battles and skirmishes and was mustered out in May, 1866.

#### FORTY-SECOND INFANTRY

Fourteen Stark County men served in this regiment, to wit: Henry Boyle, Company B; James Hall, Frank Horn, Robert Miller and John W. Shoemaker, Company D; Cyrenus Dewey, Case D. Dubois, Samuel P. Hankins and Amos Hodges, Company F; Silas Avery, Mordecai Bevier, Joseph G. Fowler, Springer Galley and Thomas W. Oziah, Company K.

The regiment was mustered in at Chicago in September, 1861; served in Missouri and Kansas until the spring of 1862; was then in Mississippi for a short time; took part in the engagements at Stone's

River, on the Tullahoma campaign, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge; was with Sherman in the Atlanta campaign of 1864 and participated in a number of the actions incident to that movement, including the charge at Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek and Atlanta. In September, 1864, it was ordered to New Orleans and served in the Department of the Gulf until mustered out on January 10, 1866.

#### FORTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY

Stark County was well represented in this regiment, having a few men in each of Companies A and D, and Company K was organized in the county. Charles S. Blood, who went out as a sergeant in Company A, was promoted to second lieutenant, and Benjamin Ament and Benjamin F. Ellis served as privates in the company. In Company D were the following privates: Nathaniel Childs, Albert G. Conley, William Crow, Robert Davidson, Perry Kent, William R. Kiger, John McKinnon, Robert S. Martin, James Richart, Allen H. Spellman, William W. Stewart, Alva W. Sturdevant, Abraham Vandusen. James Drummond was a private in Company H, being the only Stark County man in that company.

The officers of Company K at the time of muster in were as follows: Jacob Jamison, captain; David DeWolf, first lieutenant (promoted captain); James A. Henderson, second lieutenant. Sergeants—John M. Brown (promoted captain), William H. Denehfield (promoted first lieutenant); Elisha Dixon, Philip A. Templeton, Charles Butler. Corporals—Adam Torrance, Charles D. Paul, Joseph W. Jamison, Henry Dixon, D. W. Davis, Henry Hixon, Charles Edmunds. Wagoner—John H. Waller.

Privates—James Alderman, Henry Allen, John Barler, Benjamin Blackburn, Hiram Boardman, Wilson Boggs, Allen Chaffee, George A. Clifford, Miles Colwell, Ross Colwell, Amos Cornish, Thomas Cross, William Cross, Oliver Crowder, William Dailey, Joel Dixon, William Dixon, Jasper Doleson, Carson W. Drummond, Socrates Drummond, John D. Eby, Samuel Eby, Lewis Egbert, George W. Ellis, Andrew Eutzler, Daniel Fast, Robert Garner, Charles Goodrich, George Hachtel, John Hawks (promoted second lieutenant), Osear G. Hixon, Charles S. Hitecock, Daniel Howard, John Hum, Jacob Hutchinson, William Jamison, James W. Jarnagin, James Kinkade, Robert Lambert, Daniel McCrady, Theodore W. McDaniel, James T. Marshall, George H. Martin, Thomas Nichols, David Oziah, George F. Pyles, Robert Pyles, Edward Som-

mers, Sylvester Sylcott, John E. Thrall, Barton Thurston, Jesse West, John G. White, Robert L. Wright.

The Forty-seventh was organized at Peoria in August and September, 1861. Soon after being mustered in it moved to Benton Barracks at St. Louis. It was first under fire at Farmington, Miss., May 9, 1862; took part in the action of May 28, 1862, at Corinth, where Colonel Thrush was killed, and in May, 1863, joined General Grant at Vicksburg. After the fall of Vicksburg it was ordered to Louisiana. When the men whose time had expired were mustered out in 1864 the veterans and recruits were consolidated with some from other regiments. The Stark County men in the consolidated Forty-seventh were as follows:

Company A—James B. Riley and Richard Lynch.

Company B—Henry Weiar, corporal (promoted captain); Wilson Boggs, first lieutenant; and the following privates: J. Bates, Soerates Drummond, Charles Goodrich, George Hachtel, Henry Hixon, Oscar G. Hixon, James Kinkade, David Oziah, Sylvester Sylcott, Jacob Weiar, Michael Weiar.

Company C—Benjamin Ellis, corporal.

Company E—Philip C. Scott, corporal; Charles Byrne, Thomas Byrne, William Conklin, James Farrell, Charles Hall, John Keely and Robert Keusler, privates.

Company H—George Edwards, John Hartley, Daniel Hogan and Charles McBride, privates.

Company I—In this company were four privates, viz: Daniel Ballard, John Burns, Abram Londenburgh, Theodore Vandyke.

Company K—Albert Papeneau, sergeant; Alexander Davis, George W. Sailer and Alexander Sames, corporals; Robert Lambert, wagoner; David Biddleman, Enoch Foble, Thomas J. Fuller, Thomas Fryman, Samuel A. Glassford, Samuel S. Glassford, Stephen H. Jackson, John W. Morrison and Robert Sames, privates.

After the consolidation above mentioned the regiment continued on duty in Louisiana and Alabama. It was mustered out at Selma, Ala., in January, 1866.

#### SIXTY-FIFTH INFANTRY

The next regiment in which Stark County was represented by any considerable number of men was the Sixty-fifth, which was mustered in at Chicago on May 1, 1862. In Company A were James K. Allen, Ezekiel Bogard, Joseph Bogard, Asa Greenfield, Bethuel Greenfield,

Sylvester Greenfield and Robert H. Hitchcock. There were three privates in Company D—Finley McClellan, William W. Updike and Daniel P. White—and in Company G were Corporal John Richer, James F. Ausman, William H. Ausman, privates.

A number of men in Company L came from Stark County. George H. Brown was mustered in as a sergeant and promoted to second lieutenant; James K. Oziah served as corporal, and the following as privates: Isaac Bannister, Benjamin Blackburn, Stephen S. Burnham, Alfred Cornish, James Dahrymple, Freeman R. Davison, Chaameey Gardner, Henry C. Hall, Robert Hennessy, Harmon Hochstrasser, Osro C. Huckins, Frederick K. Ketzenberger, Alexander C. Lord, Peter Nelson, Arthur R. Olds, George W. Pate, James C. Powell, Samuel C. Sharrer, William Shirts, Harvey L. Way, W. W. Weaver, John Witcher and Robert W. Wood.

The Sixty-fifth, sometimes called the "Scotch Regiment," served in Virginia until the spring of 1863, when it was assigned to the Army of Eastern Kentucky. In the spring of 1864 it joined General Sherman for the Atlanta campaign and was in numerous engagements, especially distinguishing itself at Lost Mountain and the charge at Kenesaw Mountain. Like the Forty-seventh, some of the veterans and recruits of other regiments were consolidated with the Sixty-fifth, and in the consolidated regiment the following men were credited to Stark County:

Company B—David C. Jones, sergeant; Joseph W. Richer, corporal; George Maxfield and David Woodard, privates.

Company F—Elmer Sage, first lieutenant; Frank L. Yale and Luther Graham, corporals; George A. Brown, William A. Brown, Zachary T. Brown, James L. Fox, Melvin Gage, William J. Hamilton, Ira F. Hayden, Martin Hickman, Andrew Jackson, William J. Lamper, Morris C. Lampson, John Lee, Solomon Leighton, Isaac Luce, Jacob W. McDaniel, Bailey C. Ogden, George W. Pate, Thomas Patterson, Adam Rush, George Rush, James M. Tacket, Stephen Talbot, Anson Tanner, Elisha E. Taylor, privates.

Company H—James K. Allen, Joseph Bogard, Bethuel Greenfield, Sylvester Greenfield, Robert H. Hitchcock and Daniel P. White, privates.

Company I—In this company Freeman R. Davison and Osro C. Huckins served as privates, and in Company K, George H. Brown was second lieutenant. The consolidated Sixty-fifth was mustered out on July 13, 1865.

## SIXTY-NINTH INFANTRY

Thirty-one men from Stark County saw service in Company D, Sixty-ninth Infantry, which was mustered into the United States service on June 14, 1862. Jedediah Luce, George W. Smith, Matthew Rounds and James Adams were enrolled as corporals, and the following served as privates: Moses M. Adams, William Bowden, Edward Brown, Robert Boyd, Lucius Church, William H. Davidson, Algernon Fitch, Ransom D. Foster, William Foster, Michael Gillespie, William Hamilton, David Himes, Michael Hum, Benjamin F. Lewis, Henry B. Lewis, George W. McDaniel, George Pate, Edward Perry, Edwin B. Pomeroy, John W. Rounds, Wilson Rounds, Frederick Russell, Jasper Smith, Theron Waller, William F. Wheeler, Lorenzo K. Wiley, Isaac M. Witter.

## EIGHTY-SIXTH INFANTRY

This regiment was organized at Peoria and was mustered in on August 27, 1862. Stark County furnished nineteen men to Company E, and three men to Company H. George H. Smith was mustered in as a sergeant in the former company and was promoted to the captaincy on July 15, 1864. The privates were: Benton Carrington, Joseph Carter, William Cooper, William Dawson, Harvey Foreman (promoted to second lieutenant, but not mustered), Alonzo Goodale, James C. Hall, John A. Job, Andrew Nehlig, Thomas Reader, James W. Reagan, Tighlman S. Reagan, James S. Schank, Jacob Schleigh, William F. Speers, John R. Waldron, Eli Wilson and Louis Woodward. The three men in Company H were: Cyrus A. Fox, who was enrolled as musician, and privates Alexander Hepperly and John Jenkeson.

The regiment was ordered to Louisville, Ky., immediately after it was mustered in and served for several months in that state. It was engaged at Perryville, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and in several of the battles and skirmishes of the Atlanta campaign in 1864, after which it accompanied Sherman's army on the historic "March to the sea" and the campaign of the Carolinas. It was mustered out at Washington, D. C., June 6, 1865.

## NINETY-THIRD INFANTRY

In September, 1862, this regiment was organized at Chicago and when mustered into the United States service Nicholas C. Buswell,

of Stark County, held the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was promoted to colonel on November 25, 1863, but was not mustered as such. In Company H the following Stark County boys were enrolled as privates: George Gardner, Thomas Goodwin, Edgar Hall, William C. Hall, John Hellener, Matthew Landon, Fred Selaghter, Seth E. Stoughton, Nathan Thorn and Morgan L. Weaver.

In November, 1862, the regiment was ordered to Memphis, Tenn., and the next March it took part in the famous Yazoo Pass expedition. It was in the battle of Black River Bridge, the siege of Vicksburg, a number of the engagements on the Atlanta campaign of 1864, marched with Sherman to the sea and up through the Carolinas, and was mustered out on June 23, 1865.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH INFANTRY

On August 8, 1862, the commissioned officers of three Stark County companies and seven Henry County companies met at Galva and took the preliminary steps to organize a regiment. The result of this movement was that on September 20-22, 1862, the One Hundred and Twelfth was mustered in at Peoria, with Thomas J. Henderson, of Toulon, as colonel, and Luther S. Millikin, of Wyoming, as assistant surgeon, afterward promoted surgeon. With the exception of a few men, Companies B, E and F were raised in Stark County.

In Company B the commissioned officers at the time of muster in were: James B. Doyle, captain; Jonathan C. Dickerson, first lieutenant; John Gudgell, second lieutenant. Captain Doyle resigned on March 31, 1863, and Lieutenant Dickerson was promoted to the vacancy. He was killed in action on September 18, 1863, when Lieutenant Gudgell became captain and served until discharged on March 27, 1865. Bradford F. Thompson was then promoted to the captaincy and held that rank until the regiment was mustered out.

Sergeants—Bradford F. Thompson (promoted to lieutenant and captain), William H. Doyle (promoted first lieutenant), Charles B. Foster (promoted second lieutenant), John H. Bunnell and Willard B. Foster.

Corporals—Eli C. Jones (promoted sergeant), George W. Reed (promoted sergeant), Nicholas Hill, Augustus J. Thompson (promoted sergeant), Edward J. Riley.

Privates—Robert Alexander, Charles H. Barber, George Barber, Orlin Bevier (promoted corporal), Andrew J. Brode, Charles N. Crook (promoted corporal), Isaac N. Dalrymple, Thomas E. De-



laney, Uriah Dunn, Spencer Elston, Joseph Fleming, Enoch W. Foster, Morris Fowler, Samuel B. Francis, John P. Freeman, William D. Freeman, Washington Garside, Hiram P. Geer, Ephraim Glidden, James A. Goodrich, John Hall, Charles H. Handley, William Handley, James Hare, Henry S. Hayden (mustered out as musician), Louis T. Hinkle (promoted corporal), Edwin Holmes, George Jennings, William H. Johnson, Levi W. Jones (promoted corporal), John R. Jones (promoted sergeant), Peter Jones, Daniel Kane, Francis J. Leggett, Charles Leighton, John C. Leighton, James A. Long (promoted corporal), William C. Lopeman, George Ludlum, Henry McKibbons, John McLaughlin, Hiram P. Mallory (promoted corporal), Elias Miller, Orman N. Miller, Horace Morrison, John Olenburg (promoted corporal), Eber S. Osborn (mustered out as wagoner), Lewis Osborn, Irwin Oxberger, James Partridge, Jacob H. Perkey, Ira Porter, Samuel Redding, George W. Scott, Henry Shimp, Dennis Spellman, Henry Stacy, Nathan D. Stewart, George W. Stone, Cyrus Sturm, Isaac Sturm, John Sturm, Alva W. Sturtevant, Clark N. Sturtevant, Joseph Taylor, Charles R. Thompson, John Wallace, William P. Wilson.

Recruits—Joseph H. Baldwin, George A. Brown, Melvin Gage, Ira F. Hayden, William J. Lamper, John Lee, Solomon Leighton, Isaac Luce.

Sanford L. Ives, of Goshen Township, was a sergeant in Company D, and Robert Creighton, Walter N. Jones, Lemuel F. Mathews, Baillie C. Ogden and Stephen Talbot, privates in the same company, were credited to Stark County.

Sylvester F. Otman, of Wyoming, was mustered in as captain of Company E; Cramer W. Brown, first lieutenant; Elmer A. Sage, second lieutenant. The last named was transferred to the Sixty-fifth regiment and Henry Graves was made second lieutenant.

Sergeants—Henry J. Otman, Henry Graves (promoted second lieutenant), Dixon Solomon, John E. Charrett and Charles B. Hitchcock.

Corporals—Timothy Bailey, John B. Pettit, William G. Wilkinson, Peter M. Swords, Carey G. Colburn, William C. McMillen, James B. Blackmore, David Fast.

Wagoner—John D. Martin.

Privates—Michael Alderman, Alfred B. Armstrong, Jerry H. Bailey, William B. Barr, David Barrett, James D. Bloomer (promoted sergeant), Gershom Burnett, James E. Bush, Sidney D. Butler (promoted corporal), William Cassatt, William T. Carter,



Thomas Colwell, William Colwell, John Cole, Absalom J. Cooper, Elijah Cox, Joel Cox, Douglas N. Crone (promoted corporal), Charles B. Davis, David Dawson, John Dawson, Newton Dolison, William Ellis, James Elston, Wallace W. Emanuel, Whitfield Evans, Andrew Fantz, Noah Fantz, Shephard Green, Stephen W. Green, Henry A. Greenerwalt, Jonathan Graves, Charles Hall, Charles Hart, Eugene Hart, John Harvey, William Herridge, Lewis Hiback, Michael Hire, William Holgate, Medora Hoover, Nathan H. Hull, David Kerns, Calvin B. Laskell, Curwine McCoy, John McCoy, Riley Maranville, George B. Marlatt, David S. Miller, William H. Morgan, William J. Morgan, George W. Nicholas, John Oldaker (promoted corporal), Charles W. Phenix, Frank Pross, James W. Rateliff, James Ray, Simon Ray, William Ray, John Sigel, William E. L. Smith, Cyrus Snare (promoted corporal), Henry Soper, Joseph Sparks, Michael Springer, James Strinburg, Sylvester H. Stofer, John D. Swain, Thaddeus Thurston, Ananias Timmons (promoted corporal), Philip M. Trapp, Josiah F. Umbaugh, David Wandling, Russell White, Ancil H. Woodcock.

Recruits—James L. Fox, Morris C. Lampson, Adam Rush, George Rush, Francis M. Sollars, James M. Tacket, Anson Tanner.

Company F was officered at the time of muster in as follows: William W. Wright, captain; Jackson Lawrence, first lieutenant; Robert E. Westfall, second lieutenant. Captain Wright died on June 24, 1864, and was succeeded by James G. Armstrong, who was mustered in as first sergeant, Robert E. Westfall being promoted to first lieutenant.

Sergeants—James G. Armstrong (promoted captain), George C. Maxfield (promoted second lieutenant), Edwin Butler, William P. Finley, Bushrod Tapp (promoted first lieutenant).

Corporals—John H. Lane (promoted sergeant), Henry B. Perry (promoted second lieutenant), William C. Bell, Andrew G. Pike (promoted sergeant), William Rounds, Levi Silliman, Milton Trickle, John F. Rhodes (promoted sergeant).

Privates—Henry C. Ackley, John L. Adams, Samuel M. H. Adams (promoted corporal), Alfred C. Ballentine, William P. Ballentine (promoted sergeant), Elmore Barnhill, William H. Barton, William Beiderdeck, John Black, George Boyd, William Boyd, Nathaniel Crabtree, William M. Creighton, John W. Curfman, James W. Davison, Darins Demont, Robert M. Denney (promoted corporal), Samuel M. Eldridge, George Ely, William H. Ely, James Essex, John D. Essex, William T. Essex, James E. Finley (mustered

out as corporal), Olaus Forss, Henry Garner, James R. Gelvin (promoted sergeant), George Graen, William H. Harris, Anderson Harty (promoted sergeant), James P. Headley, Milton Headley, Austin C. Himes, William Himes, Joseph Hoppock, James Hughes (promoted corporal), Daniel Huselton, George W. Johnson, Havilah B. Johnson, Timothy Kennedy, Andrew Kamerer, John Kindle, Royal Lafferty, Jesse Likens, Theodore McDaniel, James M. McSharry, Jeremiah D. Madden, Job G. Mahaffey, Robert Makings, Isaac Messinger, George Miller, Josiah Minor, John F. Negus, Zarah H. Newton, George W. Oziah, Hiram G. Parrish, William B. Price, Thomas Proctor, George Rockwell, George W. Rhodes, Ira Seranton, Ephraim W. Smith, Jacob Stauffer, Milton Stevens, George G. Stone (promoted corporal), Robert G. Stowe, William A. Stowe, Presley Terrell, David Tinlin, Benjamin F. Todd, Jacob Vulgamott (promoted corporal), William Vulgamott, David Webster, Thomas T. White, John W. Whitten, Curtis Wright.

Recruits—Joseph H. Burwick, Luther Graham, Henry C. Hall, William J. Hamilton, Peter C. Johnson, J. W. McDaniel, George W. Pate, Thomas Patterson, Elisha J. Taylor, Jesse B. Taylor, Henry J. Stone.

In Company G, Joseph Berry, Charles Kezer, George Melbourne, Louis E. Morton, John A. Tarble, William A. Brown, Ransom D. Foster, Andrew Jackson, Myron Waters and Frank L. Yale served as privates, and the following recruits from Stark County were unassigned to companies: John Berier, Ciba A. Dunlap, Noah Hidlebaugh, Jonas Johnson, Arnold Volney.

The regiment left Peoria on October 8, 1862, and on the 11th reported to Gen. Gordon Granger, at Covington, Ky. It remained in camp at Lexington for about five months, after which it was on guard and scouting duty in Kentucky until the summer of 1863, several times being engaged with small bodies of the enemy. It was then moved to East Tennessee and took part in all the military operations there in the fall of 1863 and the early part of 1864. In May, 1864, it joined General Sherman at Tunnel Hill, Ga., and was in several of the hottest engagements of the Atlanta campaign. When General Hood evacuated Atlanta and started northward, the regiment, as part of the Twenty-third Army Corps, moved back to Tennessee. It took part in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, which virtually ended the war in the West. After pursuing Hood's retreating army to the Tennessee River, the One Hundred and Twelfth proceeded by steamboat to Cincinnati, Ohio, thence by rail to Washington, D. C., and

was next engaged in the reduction of Fort Fisher. Its last service was in North Carolina. It was mustered out at Chicago on July 7, 1865. Colonel Henderson was in command of the brigade the greater part of the time after August 8, 1863, and on November 30, 1864, was promoted to the rank of brevet brigadier-general.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH INFANTRY

Sixteen Stark County men served in this regiment, though some of them were credited to Henry County. Asa Bunton was corporal in Company A at the time of muster in, but was promoted to sergeant, and Daniel S. Adams, Frank Hudson, Levi Leek, Fred M. Leacroft and Asa Smith enlisted as privates in the same company. In Company F, George S. Green was a sergeant; Samuel M. Likes, a corporal; and the following privates: Nathaniel Copper, Walter A. Fell, Alvin Galley, Thomas Murray, Thomas W. Rule, Sylvester Sweet, Andrew Turnbull and Alexander Wier.

The regiment was mustered in on September 10, 1862, with Thomas J. Sloan as colonel. Its first active service was in Tennessee; then it took part in the siege of Vicksburg and several of the engagements of that campaign. In January, 1864, it won the prize banner offered by Gen. M. D. Leggett for the best drilled regiment in the division. Its last service was in Alabama. It was mustered out at Springfield, Ill., August 16, 1865.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINTH INFANTRY

In this regiment, as in the preceding one, some of the men who went out from Stark County are credited to other counties. Stephen V. R. Bates, of Toulon, was a member of the regimental band; Otis P. Dyer was a corporal in Company A; James Swank was a corporal in Company E; Ansel J. Wright was first lieutenant in Company H; Gorham P. Blood and George Dugan were sergeants in the same company; Oliver P. Crowell, Nathaniel W. Dewey and William O. Johnson were corporals, and the following served as privates: William J. Barnett, Samuel Burge, Thomas W. Cade, George W. Dewey, Joseph Flansburg, Adam Gardner, Abram H. Loudenbourg, Don C. Lyon, Oren Maxfield, Jr., Elisha Mosher, William H. Newcomer, Harrison Newton, Joseph H. Newton, Harvey J. Remington, Reuben Rounds, John S. Roof, Charles D. Sharrer, William Searl, Joseph H. Sharrer, Theodore Vandyke, Andrew J. Whitaker, Ben-

jamin J. Witcher, Isaac M. Witter, Benjamin Witter, William W. Wright.

This regiment was mustered in on June 1, 1864, for 100 days and was soon afterward sent to Columbus, Ky., via St. Louis. Its only encounter with the enemy was in capturing horses and cattle to replace some taken by guerrillas, who had taken some Government cattle from steamboats near Paducah. Some of the stock was recaptured and enough taken from secession sympathizers to make good the loss. It was then in pursuit of General Price in Missouri. It was mustered out at Peoria on October 25, 1864, having served nearly two months beyond the term of its enlistment.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST INFANTRY

Fayette Lacey, who had previously served in the Thirty-seventh Regiment, was made sergeant-major of the One Hundred and Fifty-first; Lafayette Schamp was a private in Company A; W. H. Boyer, Allen Gingrich and C. W. Phenix served as privates in Company E, and a large part of Company I came from Stark County.

The commissioned officers of Company I were as follows: Casimir P. Jackson, captain; James Montooth, first lieutenant; Andrew Galbraith, second lieutenant. James Montooth resigned on June 20, 1865, and Lieutenant Galbraith was promoted to the vacancy, Sergeant George R. Fezler being made second lieutenant.

Sergeants—George Dugan, George R. Fezler, George W. McDaniels, Samuel Keyes.

Corporals—Rufus S. Jones, Samuel Dixon, Thomas Homer, James F. Thompson, John S. Roof and Herod Murnan.

Musicians—Thomas S. Craig and Charles W. Orr.

Wagoner—Jonathan Rounds, of Goshen Township.

Privates—Atkinson Coe, David Crumb, Austin DeWolf, Joseph Dixon, George W. Gilson, Orson Grant, Edward A. Johnson, Leonidas H. Jones, Elias B. Lewis, Samuel K. Lowman, Ira J. McConnell, Samuel Masters, John H. Monerief, Edward A. Perry, Bethuel Pierson, Daniel Rockwell, Seth F. Rockwell, Henry W. Thomas and David Woodard.

The regiment was organized at Quiney and was mustered into the United States service on February 23, 1865, for one year. Two days later the men were armed and equipped at Springfield, and on March 7, 1865, the One Hundred and Fifty-first reported to Gen. James B. Steadman at Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was present at Resaca, Ga.,

when Confederate General Warford surrendered his command to 10,400 men in May, and spent the remainder of its term of service in that state, breaking up guerrilla bands, guarding Government stores, etc. It was mustered out at Columbus, Ga., January 24, 1866.

#### MISCELLANEOUS INFANTRY ENLISTMENTS

In addition to the company rosters given above, a number of Stark County men were scattered through the various infantry regiments sent out by the state. An examination of the adjutant-general's reports shows that Reuben Crook and George W. Leighton served in Company A, and Lemuel G. Marsh in Company G, Sixteenth Infantry.

In the Twentieth, William Borter, Zelotas Kendall and Matthew Rounds, were enrolled in Company B; William Keeper and Calvin Vulgamott, Company D; James Farrell, Philip Graves, Finley C. McClellan, Edward Quirk and Herman Sehrader, Company E; Thomas Graves, Company F; Michael Flynn and William H. Little, Company I.

Jerome B. Thomas, of Wyoming, went to Kewanee and enlisted in the Twenty-fourth, of which regiment he was commissioned assistant surgeon on March 3, 1862.

Six Stark County boys served in the Twenty-eighth, viz: James C. Hall and John Waldron, in Company E (later transferred to the Thirty-fourth Regiment); Edress M. Conklin, Company F; George A. Armstrong, Jeremiah Ferguson and James M. Paden, Company K.

In the Thirty-eighth Regiment, John M. Cole, Thomas C. Davis and Peter Lane served as privates in Company E. John Timmons was a recruit in Company D, Fortieth Infantry, and Hugh D. Keffer was a private in Company G of the same regiment. James D. Anderson was enrolled in Company D, Forty-first.

John L. Lee and William C. Grant were recruits in the Fortyninth, the former in Company B and the latter in Company K, and John Ryan was a private in the Fiftieth.

The Fifty-first was organized in the winter of 1861-62. In Company H were Hugh Donnelly, Eli Elison, Erick From, Thomas Imes, Cyrus Jacobs, James Kennedy, James Kinneman, Charles W. Newton, Joseph Pew, David Simmerman, Solomon R. Shockley, Anthony Sturm and Paul Ward. Cyrus A. Anthony enlisted as a private in Company K, but was promoted to quartermaster sergeant and later to captain of Company B.

In the Fifty-third, Francis Bradley was enrolled in Company A; James W. Albro and James Lee, Company C; William Oziah, Company E.

Five Stark County men enlisted in Company G of the Fifty-fifth, to-wit: L. S. Coggs well, George W. Eckley, James A. Eckley, Joseph C. Hiner and George E. Witter. Three of these five were promoted to noncommissioned officers.

In the Fifty-sixth, Edward Keffer and Osmand C. Griswold enlisted at McLeansboro. The former rose to be captain of his company and the latter was mustered out as a second lieutenant.

Thomas J. Blake, James Kelley and Joseph Manning enlisted in Company F, Fifty-seventh Infantry; James Nichols and Thomas C. Nichols in Company K, and William P. Clifford in Company H.

In the Fifty-eighth, Rudolph Shipman enlisted in Company D; Edward Deffleg and Isaac Dudley in Company E; Franklin Maxey and James C. Maxey, Company I; and John Ryan joined the regiment as an unassigned recruit in February, 1865.

Stephen Babb served in the Sixty-fourth, and in the Sixty-sixth were Charles Atherton, Andrew Hamilton and Daniel Holmes.

In Company A, Seventy-second Infantry, were Miles Avery, Jacob Galley, Scepta T. Harding, James D. Heath and Robert Holmes, and George W. Dunbar, Jr., and W. H. Harris served in Company E, Eighty-third.

In the One Hundred and Sixth, Benjamin Williams was captain of Company G, and James W. Berry, who enlisted as a corporal in Company H, was promoted to first lieutenant.

In the One Hundred and Eighth, Richard Lynch was a member of Company C, and James Riley of Company D. Miles A. Coffinberry was in Company K, One Hundred and Thirteenth, and John C. Copestake was first assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Fourteenth.

In Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh regiment, were Abram Bevier, Robert J. Dickiusion, Uriah Givitts, William H. Givitts and George Kinter.

In the One Hundred and Thirty-second were two privates from Stark County—Charles C. Hotchkiss and Barney M. Jackson—both members of Company G.

In Company I, One Hundred and Forty-eighth (a one-year regiment), Moses B. Robinson was a sergeant; Edwin B. Pomeroy, a corporal; and William D. Cundiff, Charles Hester and Luman Himes served as privates.



Four men were credited to Stark County in Company I, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry, viz: William Cross, Patrick McGuire, Edward O'Brien and Oliver P. White.

#### CAVALRY SERVICE

Illinois furnished seventeen regiments of cavalry to the Union army during the Civil war. Stark County was represented in seven of the seventeen regiments, though in no instance did a whole company enlist from the county.

In Company A, Third Cavalry, which was mustered in on September 21, 1861, were James H. Chaddock, John W. Highlands and Samuel A. Highlands. After the ranks of the regiment were depleted by a long and arduous service, it was consolidated with portions of other commands and in Company C, Consolidated Third, were Samuel H. Aten, George Boardman, Harrison Burkhart, William P. Burns, Hugh R. Creighton, Albert P. Finley, Robert Garner, John Green, John King, Theodore W. McDaniel, George F. Pyle, Henry Simmerman and John Simmerman. Andrew J. Walker served in Company K.

Joseph E. McKinstrey was a corporal in Company A, Fourth Cavalry; William Douglas was a member of Company D, and William Crooks, who enlisted in Company K, was promoted to sergeant-major.

In the Seventh, which was mustered in at Camp Butler in August, 1861, Charles Butcher and William Butcher were unassigned recruits credited to Stark County.

Twenty Stark County men were enrolled in the Ninth. Christopher Flanagan, Thomas Flanagan, Henry Lewis, Samuel R. Lewis, John C. Shaw, Patrick Smith and John Stokes were privates in Company H; J. O. H. Spinney was promoted to the captaincy of Company K; John Jamison and Francis M. Lamper served as sergeants in the same company, in which the following were enrolled as privates: Fowler Bryant, E. W. Curtis, Frank U. Doyle, Thomas A. Foster, Wesley F. Foster, Francis Griswold, Christopher Handley, John S. Hayden, William S. Luce, Henry McKibbin, Isaac Moon, Martin Shay (unassigned recruit), James Sherlock, James M. Stanley, Herman D. Sturm, C. M. Wheeler, William F. Wheeler.

Andrew Caldwell enlisted in Company C of the Eleventh Cavalry; William A. Glaze was a member of Company M, and Baxter M. Mahany was an unassigned recruit.



In the Twelfth Cavalry were Corporal Joseph E. McKinstrey and William Douglas, who were transferred from the Fourth, and Joseph Johnson.

DeWitt C. Reece was a member of Company A, and Isaac Dennis of Company M, Fourteenth Cavalry.

#### ARTILLERY

In Company A, Second Light Artillery, were twenty-three men credited to Stark County. Harvey Pierce was a corporal and the following served as privates: Morris Ayres, William Beers, Joseph G. Bloomer, Alva W. Brown, Stephen W. Carney, John Cox, Clemens R. Defendener, Albert Eagan, Samuel Eagan, Thomas J. Ellis, David N. Hiffner, Charles N. Hull, John Hull, Nathan H. Hull, Emanuel Kissel, Calvin Rockwell, Hugh Stockner, John R. Stratton, Charles Thomas, Lorenzo K. Wiley, Marshall Winn, Warren Winn.

In the Marine Artillery were: John J. Campbell, Dennis Clark, James W. Dexter, Samuel Dyer, Andrew Galbraith, Marion Godfrey, James Hall, John Hotchkiss, John Labarr, Henry Marchant, Charles Maxfield, Jephtha Mosher, John H. Parks, Carleton Rhodes, Isaac Whitaker, Oliver White, Marshall Winn and Warren Winn.

The two last named in the above paragraph were transferred from the Second Light Artillery, and William Cross and George Rouse served in the First United States Artillery.

There were also a few Stark County men who served in regiments belonging to other states or in the regular army. Upon the official muster rolls a name now and then is marked as a "deserter," but the percentage of this class is no larger than that of the other counties, and in fact not so large as many of them. In whatever arm of the service—infantry, cavalry, artillery or the navy—the Stark County boys as a rule rendered a good account of themselves, and the people of the present generation hold in grateful remembrance the valor and patriotism of the "Boys in Blue," as is witnessed by the monument erected to the memory of the Stark County soldiers and sailors upon the north side of the public square in Toulon.

A Stark County Soldiers' Monument Association was organized at Toulon on the last day of October, 1867, by Dr. J. C. Copestake, Capt. J. M. Brown, Andrew Galbraith and others, but no record can be found of its further proceedings. Early in the year 1901 the board of supervisors took up the question of appropriating a sum of money for the purpose of erecting a monument to commemorate the services of the soldiers and sailors who went out from the county during the

dark days of the nation from 1861-65. George T. Oliver, Mordecai Bevier and W. B. Ballentine were appointed a committee to select a design, ascertain the cost, and report.

The committee reported on March 1, 1901, in favor of the design submitted by Messrs. Drummond, of Bradford, and Teets, of Wyoming, the monument to cost \$3,000 complete. The report was approved by the board and on the same day it was ordered that "the sum of \$3,000 be set aside and appropriated out of the county tax levied for the year 1900 for the purpose of erecting a soldiers' monument for Stark County."

Not long afterward the contract was formally awarded to Drummond & Teets and the work was commenced. On September 3, 1901, the clerk was ordered to draw a warrant for \$3,000 in favor of Drummond & Teets, to be payable when the monument was completed and accepted by the committee. The monument was dedicated on Thursday, June 12, 1902. Gen. William G. Cochran, of Sullivan, Ill., who had been engaged to deliver the address, failed to make his appearance and the principal speech was made by Gen. Thomas J. Henderson, who followed George T. Oliver, the chairman of the board of supervisors, in an address of welcome, in which he presented the monument to the county.

The monument is a handsome specimen of the sculptor's art; an imposing shaft of gray granite some forty feet in height, surmounted by the figure of an infantry soldier at parade rest. On the north side, facing Main Street, is the inscription selected by the board of supervisors: "In Memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of Stark County," and on the reverse is the simple statement—"Dedicated June 12, 1902."

#### THE WORK AT HOME

While those at the front were undergoing the inconveniences of camp life, the hardships of the long march and the dangers of battle, the friends they left behind them were not unmindful of the soldier's needs. On June 10, 1861, the board of supervisors ordered: "That the sum of \$3,000 be appropriated for the purpose of uniforming volunteer militia companies organized or to be organized in Stark County, at the rate of \$6 per man, under certain conditions and restrictions. Also that in the event of immediate call of Captain Stuart's company—the 'Elmira Rifles'—the clerk shall issue an order immediately on the treasurer for such amounts as shall be found due them by disbursing agents," etc.

The next day, pursuant to a plan reported by a committee previously appointed, a tax of 20 cents on each \$100 worth of property in the county was levied for the year 1861, "for the purpose of aiding and assisting volunteer soldiers and their families." One thousand dollars of the money thus raised were ordered to be set apart for aiding the families of volunteers and the remainder to be used for uniforms and equipment for the men.

David McCance, Davis Lowman and Oliver Whitaker were appointed a committee to take charge of the disbursements. On December 3, 1861, this committee reported the following disbursements:

To the Elmira Rifles (106 men).....	\$ 630.00
To the Lafayette Rifles (76 men).....	456.00
To the Stark County Rifles (77 men).....	462.00
For relief—	
Elmira Township .....	86.78
Goshen Township .....	106.87
Osceola Township .....	9.00
Penn Township .....	20.71
Toulon Township .....	76.62
Valley Township .....	12.00
Total .....	<hr/> \$1,859.98

On June 2, 1862, the committee reported the additional expenditure of \$348.45 for the relief of soldiers' families. At the September term in 1862 the supervisors appropriated \$4,000 for the purpose of aiding the families of volunteers and at the same time directed the supervisor in each township to report the number of families in his jurisdiction, the heads of which were in the army, when the amount appropriated should be divided or apportioned among the several townships, each supervisor to act as disbursing agent in his township, though the old committee was continued to audit the accounts of the supervisors. A bounty of \$50 was authorized to be paid to each man enlisting from Stark County and a tax of 5 mills on the dollar was levied for the purpose of paying bounties and the accumulation of the \$4,000 relief fund. At the next session the supervisors reported the number of families and the fund was apportioned as follows:

## HISTORY OF STARK COUNTY

Elmira Township . . . . .	28 families	\$ 533.32
Essex Township . . . . .	33 "	628.56
Goshen Township . . . . .	20 "	380.96
Osceola Township . . . . .	37 "	704.79
Penn Township . . . . .	21 "	400.00
Toulon Township . . . . .	33 "	628.56
Valley Township . . . . .	12 "	228.57
West Jersey Township . . . . .	26 "	495.24
<hr/>		
Total . . . . .	210 families	\$4,000.00

Of this sum there was an unexpended balance on September 14, 1863, but during the winter the fund was exhausted and on March 14, 1864, the board ordered an appropriation of \$2,600 for the support of soldiers' families. On September 13, 1864, a tax of 50 cents on each \$100 worth of property was levied to pay bounties and aid the families of volunteers. Another appropriation, amounting to \$2,760, was made on March 7, 1865, for relief purposes and several years after the war was over bounties, the payment of which had been delayed, were handed over to the veterans. For this reason it is difficult to state just what sum was paid by the county in bounties.

Besides the relief given by the county in its official capacity, there were several organizations formed for the purpose of assisting the families of those who were engaged in fighting the battles of their country. The Soldiers' Relief Circle of Toulon was organized on November 12, 1861, with Mrs. Oliver Whitaker, president; Mrs. O. Gardner, vice president; Miss E. Marvin, secretary; Mrs. Calvin Eastman, treasurer; Mrs. P. M. Blair, Mrs. S. S. Kaysbier, Mrs. M. A. Fuller and Miss R. White, committee on supplies.

The Wyoming Soldiers' Relief Society was organized about the same time, with Mrs. M. A. Holst, president; Mrs. A. G. Hammond, secretary; Miss Lucy Butler, treasurer; Mesdames Isaac Thomas, B. F. Foster, W. B. Armstrong, P. Pettit, Mary Butler, J. Wrigley, J. B. Lashels and J. Matthews, committee on collections.

On July 27, 1863, the women of Penn Township organized a "Loyal League," with Mrs. J. M. Ricker, president, and Mrs. S. S. Rockwell, secretary. There were also a number of meetings held in different parts of the county for the purpose of collecting money and supplies for the families of the boys in the field.

The amount of aid extended by these societies and spontaneous gatherings cannot be ascertained, and no approximate estimate can

be made of the assistance rendered by individual offerings. Whenever some soldier's family stood in need of aid it was forthcoming. The sum thus contributed ran into thousands of dollars, of which no account was kept. Many a basket of provisions found its way to the home of some soldier; shoes, clothing, school books, etc., were provided for soldiers' children; sons and daughters of volunteers were given preference in the matter of employment by loyal citizens, and in many other ways relief was afforded to those who had sent their loved ones to the defense of the Union.

## CHAPTER X

### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

EARLY CONDITIONS IN STARK COUNTY—DIFFICULTIES OF EARLY TRAVEL—INDIAN TRAILS—PUBLIC HIGHWAYS—KNOXVILLE & GALENA STATE ROAD—FIRST ROAD DISTRICTS AND SUPERVISORS—PETITIONS AND VIEWERS—MODERN HIGHWAYS—STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION—STATE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS—ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL—ACT OF 1836—LARGE APPROPRIATIONS FOR RIVER IMPROVEMENTS AND RAILROADS—THE RAILROAD ERA—WESTERN AIR LINE—AMERICAN CENTRAL—CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC—CHICAGO, BURLINGTON & QUINCY—CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN—VALUE OF RAILROAD PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY.

In this year 1916 of the Christian era, when a citizen of Stark County has occasion to visit the county seat, or make a short journey into some of the adjacent counties, it is a comparatively easy matter to step into his automobile and glide along over a public highway to his destination. Should it be necessary for him to take a longer journey, he can take his seat in a reclining chair car or a Pullman coach on one of the great railway systems of the country and be transported across the land at the rate of fifty or sixty miles an hour. But does he ever pause to consider how all these conveniences were brought about for his comfort and accommodation. Let him for a moment draw upon his imagination for the conditions that existed in what is now Stark County when Isaac B. Essex and his early neighbors came to the Spoon River Valley in 1829.

Then all this region was "fresh from the hands of Nature." Along the stream still known as Indian Creek the Pottawatomie villages were to be seen, the men hunting where now are cultivated fields and the squaws raising some corn and a few other vegetables in a desultory sort of way. Through the groves and across the prairies prowled the wolf, and the only white men were the hunters, trappers or agents of the great fur companies who came at intervals to catch the fur-bearing animals or trade with the Indians. No roads had yet been opened for

the white man's travel and the pioneers came with the ox teams and "prairie schooners," guiding their way by the sun and "following the line of least resistance." Streams were unbridged, and it was no unusual thing for a party of immigrants to reach the bank of an ordinarily insignificant creek to find it swollen by recent rains and wait for the waters to subside before they could continue their journey. Through the forests or over the prairies wound an occasional Indian trail. These trails were the only thoroughfares and they were only narrow paths, the Indians always traveling in single file. A man on horseback might follow one, but they were practically useless to the man with a team and vehicle. However, the red man's trail possessed some advantages. They led as directly from one point to another as the nature of the ground permitted, and they struck the streams at the best possible fording places.

When the first white men came to Stark County the nearest land offices were at Quincy and Galena, and thither they must go to enter their lands. Mrs. Shallenberger describes these journeys to the land offices as being made "with no roads, no bridges, no places of shelter, nothing to direct their course save the sun and wind (which latter would sometimes sadly deceive them by an unnoticed change), and sometimes an Indian trail; these were reliable guides wherever they existed, and were followed with perfect confidence by the true backwoodsman."

In the early part of the nineteenth century a few adventurous individuals had clustered around the lead mines at Galena and there was a small settlement where the City of Peoria now stands. The first road to pass through what is now Stark County was that known as "Kellogg's Trail," which ran by a "devious way" from Peoria to the lead mines. It was opened in 1825, but after a lapse of four score and ten years it is impossible to describe the route it followed, as there was neither bridge, ferry nor white man's habitation along the entire distance.

Where the Indian trails could be widened for the passage of vehicles they were used by the first settlers until better highways could be constructed. The first roads made by civilized man were crude affairs—generally a route marked out at will, the trees blazed through the woodlands, with here and there some of the timber removed to permit the passage of wagons. They nearly always passed from one grove to another, the groves being marked places and serving as landmarks or guides to the strange traveler. Low places were filled with small logs, thrown crosswise of the driveway, thus forming the famous



old "corduroy" road, which was neither easy on the team nor comfortable for the driver, but it kept the wagon from "miring down."

#### PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

Probably the first thoroughfare in Stark County, to be established by official authority, was the state road running from Knoxville to Galena. From Knoxville it followed a generally northeastern direction until it struck the western boundary of what is now Stark County not far from the southwest corner of Goshen Township. Thence it followed a more easterly direction, passing through the grove south of the present City of Toulon, near the dwelling of Elijah McClenahan, Sr., and from there to the grove near James Holgate's. From Holgate's it ran to Boyd's Grove, then to Dixon, where it turned northward toward Galena.

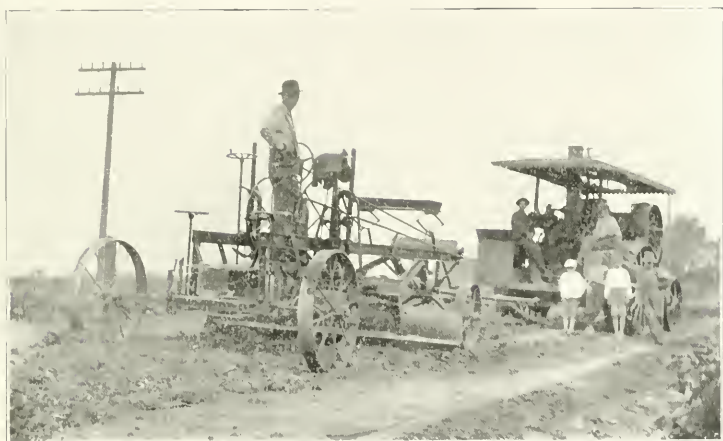
In September, 1831, while Stark was a part of Putnam County, the authorities of that county ordered a road to be surveyed and marked from Hennepin to Smith's Ford on the Spoon River. Three years later the commissioners of Putnam County established road districts. The Spoon River settlement was in District No. 17, of which Sylvanus Moore was appointed supervisor, but that was all that was done, as no roads were ever built by Putnam County for the settlement, and Mr. Moore really had nothing to "supervise."

Stark County was organized under the provisions of the act of March 2, 1839, and on the 5th of April following the first board of county commissioners divided the county into nine road districts as follows:

District No. 1 included the present townships of Elmira and Osceola, of which John Lyle was appointed supervisor.

District No. 2 was described as "beginning at the northeast corner of township 13, range 7; thence west to the northwest corner of section 3, township 13, range 6; thence south to the southwest corner of section 34; thence east to the southeast corner of township 13, range 7; thence north to the place of beginning." James Holgate was appointed supervisor of this district, which included all the present Township of Penn and the eastern half of Toulon.

District No. 3 was bounded as follows: "Beginning at the northeast corner of township 12, range 7; thence west to the northwest corner of section 2, township 12, range 6; thence south to the southwest corner of section 35, township 12, range 6; thence east to the southeast corner of township 12, range 7, and thence north to the



ROAD BUILDING IN STARK COUNTY

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place of beginning." This district embraced all of Valley Township and a strip two miles wide across the eastern part of Essex. Whitney Smith was appointed supervisor.

District No. 4 began "at the southeast corner of section 10, township 12, range 6; thence west to the southeast corner of section 10, township 12, range 5; thence south to the southeast corner of section 34; thence east to the southeast corner of section 34, township 12, range 6; thence north to the place of beginning." This district included sixteen sections in the southwestern part of Essex Township and eight sections in the southeastern part of West Jersey. Jefferson Trickle, supervisor.

District No. 5 commenced "at the southeast corner of section 10, township 12, range 5; thence west to the southwest corner of section 7; thence south to the southwest corner of the township; thence east to the southeast corner of section 34, township 12, range 5; thence north to the place of beginning." This was one of the smallest of the nine districts, embracing a tract four miles square in the southwestern part of West Jersey Township. William W. Webster was appointed supervisor.

District No. 6 began "at the southwest corner of section 7, township 12, range 5; thence east to the southeast corner of section 10; thence north to the northwest corner of section 26, township 13, range 5; thence west to the range line between ranges 4 and 5; thence north to the place of beginning." This district was also four miles square, including eight sections in the northwestern part of West Jersey Township and the same in the southwest part of Goshen. Joseph Palmer was appointed supervisor of this district.

District No. 7 was described as "beginning at the northwest corner of township 13, range 5; thence east to the northeast corner of section 3; thence south four miles; thence west to the range line, and thence north to the place of beginning." These boundaries include a tract four miles square in the northwestern part of Goshen Township. Peter F. Miner was appointed supervisor.

District No. 8 commenced "at the northwest corner of section 26, township 13, range 5; thence south to the southwest corner of section 11, township 12, range 5; thence east to the southeast corner of section 10, township 12, range 6; thence north to the southwest corner of section 35, township 13, range 6; thence west to the southeast corner of section 33, township 13, range 6; thence north to the northeast corner of section 28; thence west to the place of beginning." No. 8 included a tract of eight sections in the northwest part of Essex Town-

ship; four sections in the northeast corner of West Jersey; four sections in the southeast corner of Goshen, and six in the southwest corner of Toulon. S. G. Worley was appointed supervisor.

District No. 9 began "at the southwest corner of section 23, township 13, range 5; thence north to the northwest corner of section 2; thence east to the northwest corner of section 3, township 13, range 6; thence south to the northwest corner of section 27, and thence west to the place of beginning." This district included twelve square miles in the northwestern part of Toulon Township and eight square miles in the northeastern part of Goshen. John Miller was appointed supervisor.

The same day that these districts were established it was ordered by the board of commissioners "that each and every able bodied man subject to work on the highway shall be required to perform three days' labor on the public roads." But as no roads had as yet been established, it is probable that the "able bodied" men had an easy time in the year 1839, so far as work on the public highways was concerned.

The first mention of a public road in the records of Stark County was on September 2, 1839, when Virgil Pike and thirty-two others presented a petition for the opening of a road "commencing at the east line of the said County of Stark in the direction of Boyd's Grove from Secly's Point; thence at or near the above mentioned point the nearest and best route through the neighborhood of Cooper's Defeat in the direction of L. S. Dorrance's mill, terminating at the state road on the line between L. S. Dorrance and Henry Breese."

John Hester, Joseph D. Lane and Adam Perry were appointed to "view, mark and locate said road," which was the first highway established by the county authorities. They reported in favor of the road on December 3, 1839, and the next season the "able bodied" men in that part of the county had something to do in the way of working on the highway.

On September 3, 1839, John Hester and about thirty other citizens petitioned for a change in the Knoxville and Galena state road "from the east end of Jackson Street in the Town of Lafayette, through township 13, range 5," etc. Myrtle G. Brace, James Buswell and John Lyle were appointed to view the route proposed by the petitioners and report. The change was subsequently ordered.

On the same day John Finley and others came forward with a petition asking for a change in the same road between William Henderson's and Massillon. The viewers appointed for this proposed change were William Bowen, Charles H. Miner and Israel Stoddard.

but their report could not be found by the writer. Other petitions were presented at almost every one of the early sessions of the county commissioners, the people of every neighborhood seemingly being anxious to secure a highway for their accommodation, whether the other parts of the county received such encouragement or not. Little work was done on these early roads, except such as the settlers themselves performed under the road law which required them to perform so many days' work each year under the direction of the district supervisor.

The first roads did not follow the section lines, but took the shortest and most available route between the points it was meant to connect. But as the lands were entered and settled, it became necessary to alter a number of the roads, in order to make them conform to the lines of the official survey. On March 9, 1842, the board of commissioners redistricted the county, making eleven road districts, and levied a tax of 10 cents on each \$100 worth of property in the county for the purpose of improving the roads. This is the first record of a road tax in Stark County. In 1914 the road and bridge fund amounted to \$44,703.80.

Within recent years quite a number of the states have adopted the plan of supervising the construction and improvement of highways. A state highway commission was created in Illinois by an act of the Legislature, approved June 27, 1913. The highway commissioners in 1915 were: A. D. Gash, of Chicago; S. E. Bradt, of De Kalb; and James P. Wilson, of Polo. Under the new system the state is divided into seven districts, each of which is in charge of a highway engineer, to whom all plans for the improvement of roads must be submitted, and there is a chief engineer who has charge of the entire state. Road building in Illinois has not kept pace with that of some of her sister states—chiefly for lack of suitable material for the construction of improved highways—but it is hoped that the new system will result in giving to the people a better class of roads.

#### STATE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

Although Stark County had not been created when the state inaugurated its gigantic scheme for internal improvements, it came into existence in time to assist in paying for the folly. One of the first great works undertaken was the construction of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. It is uncertain who first suggested such a canal—to connect the waters of Lake Michigan with the Mississippi River—but

during the War of 1812 it was made manifest that some method of transportation between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley was sorely needed.

On March 30, 1822, Congress, in response to a petition from the Illinois Legislature, granted to the state a strip of ground ninety feet wide on each side of the bed of the canal. The grant was accepted by the next session of the Legislature, which appointed a board of canal commissioners, who reported that the cost of the canal would be about three-quarters of a million dollars. Subsequent events showed that their estimate was far too low, and they have been charged with purposely making it so, in order to get the state involved in its construction.

After several futile efforts to get Congress to grant more land, the Legislature passed the act of January 17, 1825, incorporating the "Illinois & Michigan Canal Association," with a capital stock of \$1,000,000. None of the stock was ever sold or subscribed and on March 3, 1827, Congress passed a bill granting to the State of Illinois alternate sections of land in a strip five miles wide on each side of the proposed canal. A new canal board was appointed on January 12, 1829, and the new commissioners announced that the canal would cost \$4,000,000. The new estimate caused doubts in the minds of many of the people as to the advisability of the state's undertaking the cost of the construction of the canal, and some opposition to the scheme developed. But the friends of artificial waterways argued that such improvements had been made in some of the eastern states, notably the Erie Canal in New York, and that the tolls had not only paid the cost of construction but also yielded a permanent income to the state. These advocates of internal improvements insisted that the people of Illinois must bestir themselves, if they expected to see Illinois occupy a place in the front rank of states.

After about five years of discussion pro and con, the Legislature in 1836 authorized the governor to borrow \$500,000 with which to commence the construction of the canal, giving the canal lands and tolls as security. Other loans followed and by January 1, 1839, nearly two millions of dollars had been expended. Then the Legislature authorized a loan of \$4,000,000 all at once. Some of this money was borrowed from the state school fund. Delay after delay followed, but finally, on April 10, 1848, the canal boat "General Fry" passed through the canal from Lockport to Chicago, and on the 23d of the same month the "General Thornton" completed the trip the full length of the canal from Chicago to La Salle. The canal was finished. The



tolls collected covered the operating expenses until 1879, when the railroads took much of the freighting business away from the canal. Notwithstanding this, the canal wielded a great influence in the development of the Upper Illinois Valley and acting as a restraint upon any undue advance in railroad freight rates.

The Illinois & Michigan Canal was not really a part of the great system of internal improvements, which had its inception in the wave of public sentiment in favor of building canals and turnpike roads, which swept over the country in the early '30s. Before anything definite along these lines had been done by Illinois, the railroad began to make its influence felt and public sentiment shifted to the construction of railroads rather than the building of turnpikes. By 1835 several lines of railway had been constructed in the East and were being operated with success. The advocates of an internal improvement system for Illinois did not pause to consider the difference in the density of population and the greater demand for common carriers in the East, but, in season and out of season, urged the state to make large appropriations for the improvement of the natural waterways and the encouragement of railroad building. As a result of all this agitation, the Legislature of 1836 inaugurated the state scheme of internal improvements by making the following appropriations:

For River Improvements—

Great Wabash River.....	\$100,000
Little Wabash River.....	50,000
Illinois River .....	100,000
Rock River .....	100,000
Kaskaskia River .....	50,000

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Total for river improvement.....\$400,000

For Railroad Construction—

From Cairo to the Illinois & Michigan Canal.....	\$3,500,000
Branch of the above to Terre Haute, Indiana.....	650,000
From Alton to Mount Carmel and Shawneetown.....	1,600,000
Branch of the above to the Cairo line.....	600,000
Quincy to the Indiana State line.....	1,850,000
Peoria to Warsaw.....	700,000
Belleville to Mount Carmel.....	150,000
Bloomington to Mackinaw.....	350,000

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Total for railroads.....\$9,400,000

In addition to the above there were appropriations of \$250,000 for the improvement of the Great Western Mail Route and \$200,000 to the counties that received no direct benefit from the proposed public improvements, making a grand total of \$10,250,000. Several of the enterprises contemplated by the bill were commenced, but none was ever completed and the money sunk in the state system of internal improvements was lost beyond recovery. The railroad from Cairo to the Illinois & Michigan Canal, at La Salle, was afterward finished by a company and now forms a part of the Illinois Central, and the Quincy & Indiana State Line road was built over another route, afterward becoming a part of the Toledo, Wabash & Western.

Charles M. Thompson, in an article in one of the Illinois Historical Collections, says: "Within three years the craze had run its course, leaving the people, as a reminder of their folly, a debt that hung over them for decades. The impossibility of the scheme was not revealed until the time came when the bonds were unsalable."

When Governor Ford was inaugurated in 1842, the state debt was nearly fifteen and a half millions of dollars. Stark County was then about three years old. The only benefit this county received from the internal improvement scheme was under the provision of section 5 of the act of March 2, 1839, that the treasurer of Putnam County should pay to the treasurer of Stark County the sum of \$1,645, with interest at 12 per cent, etc. Putnam was one of the counties that received a portion of the appropriation of \$200,000 that went to the counties not directly affected by the public improvements, her share amounting to \$9,870. When Stark was cut off she was given one-sixth of this sum, with accrued interest. Upon demanding the money from Putnam County, it was learned that Ammon Moon, the treasurer of that county, had loaned the funds without taking adequate security, though Stark finally received her share of the spoils. It is probable, however, that the people paid back more than that amount in taxes in liquidating the enormous debt incurred through the internal improvement scheme.

#### THE RAILROAD ERA

The first railroad in the United States to be operated successfully was a line about nine miles in length, running from the City of Mauch Chunk, Pa., to some coal mines. Within a few years men of sagacity and foresight realized that the railroad was destined to become an important factor in the development of the country, and the people of the West began to offer every encouragement to their introduc-

tion. The proposition was not favored unanimously, however, but met with considerable opposition, some of which merely insisted that financial aid be withheld until the country was in better condition, while other opposition was unquestionably based upon prejudice. About 1830 some young men of Lancaster, Ohio, formed themselves into a debating society and requested the school board to permit them to use the schoolhouse to discuss the railroad question. To this request the board made the following reply:

"We are willing to allow you the use of the schoolhouse to debate all proper questions in, but such subjects as railroads are rank infidelity and not fit to be discussed in a building erected for the purpose of educating our children. If the Almighty had intended for His creatures to travel across the face of the country at the frightful speed of fifteen miles an hour, he would clearly have foretold it through His holy prophets. It is a device of Satan to lead immortal souls down to hell."

Despite the objections of the Lancaster School Board, and others of that class, railroad building went on. Each year found more people interested and willing to vote aid to secure a railroad through their respective communities. And the railroad that today could not run its trains at a greater rate of speed than the "frightful fifteen miles an hour" so feared by the Ohio school board, would neither receive nor deserve a large amount of patronage.

#### WESTERN AIR LINE

The first railroad project to interest the people of Stark County was the Western Air Line Railroad, which was first mentioned in 1850. After about three years of preliminary work, the County Court, on June 6, 1853, took the following action:

"Whereas, it has been represented to this court that it would be for the welfare and advantage of Stark County, and that the citizens thereof are desirous that said county should subscribe to the capital stock of the 'Western Air Line Railroad Company' to aid in the construction of said road; it is therefore

"Ordered by the court that an election be held in the several townships in said county on the 13th day of August next, at the usual places of holding elections or town meetings in said towns, for the purpose of voting for or against the subscription by the said County of Stark to the capital stock of the said 'Western Air Line Railroad Company' of the amount of \$50,000. Bonds to be issued for said sum

(in case a majority of the legal voters, as required by law, shall vote for said subscription) running twenty years and bearing 6 per cent interest, by the proper authorities under the laws of the state.

"And it is further ordered that the clerk give notice as required by law. The bonds to be issued on condition that said road shall run through the central part of the county, as near as practicable."

The result of the election was 534 votes in favor of the stock subscription and 141 against it. About a month after the election the old county court was superseded by the board of supervisors and nothing further was done concerning the railroad stock until July 31, 1855. The minutes of the supervisors' meeting for that date show that it was

"Ordered that the chairman of the board of supervisors be, and he is hereby, authorized to subscribe \$50,000 to the capital stock of the Western Air Line Railroad, and that the clerk be authorized to issue to said company \$50,000 of the bonds of Stark County, payable in twenty years from the date hereof, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, payable at such place as said company may designate. Said bonds may be in such sums as may be designated by said company, not less than \$1,000 each, and shall have coupons attached, which said bonds and coupons shall be signed by the chairman of this board and attested by the clerk, with the seal of the county attached thereto."

Pursuant to this order, fifty bonds of \$1,000 each were issued and turned over to the railroad company by William W. Webster, chairman of the board of supervisors, and Miles A. Fuller, clerk, who received for the county \$50,000 in stock of the company. The general offices of the company were established at Lacon, the county seat of Marshall County. At the annual meeting of the stockholders in 1856, Mr. Webster cast the vote of Stark County. The next year Isaac Thomas cast the county's vote. The meeting of 1858 was held on the 3d of March. The day before the meeting the board of supervisors appointed Isaac Thomas to cast the vote for the county, and instructed him to vote for Dr. Thomas Hall for director.

Like many of the early railroad enterprises in the West, the Western Air Line never became a reality. The bonds issued by Stark County produced more litigation than miles of railroad. In July, 1858, the board of supervisors appointed T. F. Hurd to obtain legal advice as to whether the county was legally bound to pay the bonds, and in September following the board adopted a resolution declaring "that the board deems it advisable to decline paying the interest now due." W. W. Winslow was authorized to tender the certificates of

stock held by the county to the railroad company and demand in return the bonds issued by the county. The offer was declined and on September 15, 1858, Olaf Johnson filed suit against the county for the amount of interest due. In the Circuit Court the suit was dismissed, whereupon Johnson carried it to the Supreme Court, where a decision was rendered in April, 1861, ordering Stark County to pay both principal and interest of the bonds.

#### AMERICAN CENTRAL RAILROAD

Some work was done on the proposed line by the Western Air Line Company. Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "In September, 1855, the 'breaking ground' was celebrated at Toulon by a public dinner on the square and appropriate speeches. Great enthusiasm prevailed and a good portion of the vast assemblage afterward adjourned to the prairie east of town to see the first shovelful of earth thrown up on the much desired road."

In the suit of Johnson vs. Stark County, it was shown that about eighty miles of the road bed had been graded and made ready for the ties and rails. Some of the people of Stark County were not willing to see all this work go to waste, hence a new company, known as the American Central Railroad Company, was organized to succeed the Western Air Line. William Lowman, of Toulon, was chosen treasurer, and William F. Thomas, of Wyoming, was one of the directors. The new company was no more successful than its predecessor and after a short time the interest in the effort to build a railroad waned and the project was abandoned.

#### CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC

On March 7, 1867, a charter was granted to the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad Company to build a railroad between the points named. The new company acquired the right of way of the old Western Air Line for \$27,000 and began making active preparations for construction. New encouragement was thus given to the people of Stark County and on August 26, 1867, a railroad meeting was held in Toulon. Charles Myers presided and Oliver White acted as secretary. Resolutions indorsing the proposed railroad were adopted and Patrick M. Blair, Benjamin Turner, Martin Shallenberger, Davis Lowman and Oliver Whitaker were appointed a committee to formulate and present a plan by which the county could aid in building the road.

At a second meeting, November 9, 1867, resolutions pledging Toulon Township to subscribe \$50,000 to the capital stock of the company were adopted and Miles A. Fuller, Martin Shallenberger and Davis Lowman were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions to the stock fund. Three days later the first board of directors was elected. William R. Hamilton was chosen president; Patrick M. Blair, vice president; C. P. James, secretary; and H. M. Wheeler, treasurer.

On November 22, 1867, a large number of the citizens of Toulon, Penn, Essex and Valley townships—through which it was supposed the road would pass—assembled at Wyoming to consider the question of granting financial assistance to the company. H. A. Holst presided and Dr. J. C. Copestake was elected secretary. A motion to appoint a committee on resolutions, consisting of two from each township, was carried and the following were appointed: Toulon, John Wrigley and Isaac Thomas; Essex, A. G. Hammond and C. H. Butler; Penn, Charles Holgate and George Nicholas; Valley, Thomas Crone and Elisha Dixon. The committee offered a resolution pledging each of the townships to subscribe \$50,000, which was adopted.

About this time the survey of the road was completed through the county and it was discovered that it did not touch Penn Township. Instead it passed through Goshen and on January 27, 1868, an election was held in the townships of Valley, Essex, Toulon and Goshen on the question of subscribing the stock recommended by the Wyoming meeting the preceding November. The proposition carried, though Valley Township voted only \$30,000. The lesson of the old Western Air Line bonds was not lost on the people of Stark County, and in the case of the Peoria & Rock Island the bonds issued by the townships were safeguarded by such conditions that default on the part of the company was impossible.

Work on the road was commenced in the spring of 1869 and early in June, 1871, the first train arrived at Toulon. Although it was only a construction train, the occasion was one of rejoicing on the part of the denizens of the town, and the incident was celebrated by a big dinner served in Judge Ogle's grove, at which the officials and employes of the railroad company were invited guests. The first regular passenger train passed over the road on July 8, 1871. Previous to that time the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad Company had formed a consolidation with the Rock Island & Pacific. The road is now known as the Peoria & Rock Island division of the great Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific system.



## CHICAGO, BURLINGTON &amp; QUINCY

The branch of this great system which runs through Stark County had its inception in 1855, in the Peoria & Hannibal Railroad, of which James H. Stipp was the principal projector. Some five or six years later Mr. Stipp, on behalf of his company, gave a perpetual lease to James F. Joy and E. B. Ward, agents of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, with the stipulation that the line would be completed and operated by that company. Early in 1869 the road was finished and trains were running between Canton and Rushville. The line was then called the Peoria, Dixon & Hannibal Railroad. About that time the townships of Osceola, Penn, Valley and Essex, in Stark County, took up the question of granting some financial aid to the company, in order to hasten the completion of the road.

In this work Dr. Alfred Castle, of Wyoming, was one of the leading spirits. Through the influence of him and his associates, liberal subsidies were granted and the work was pushed with such vigor that before the close of the year the line had crossed the boundary of Stark County being the first railroad in the county. In 1870 it was finished to Buda, where it connects with the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy system. It is now known as the Buda & Rushville branch. It passes through Essex, Toulon, Penn and Osceola townships, the Stark County stations on the road being Duncan, Wyoming, Castleton, Bradford and Lombardville.

## CHICAGO &amp; NORTHWESTERN

About the close of the nineteenth century the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company decided to build a branch from some point on the main line to Peoria. After surveying several routes the one decided upon was from Nelson, six miles west of Dixon on the main line, southward through Lee, Bureau, Marshall and Stark counties. No subsidies were asked by the railroad company, the right of way was purchased, construction commenced and in 1902 the road was complete and in running order. From Buda to the Stark County line it runs almost parallel to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Upon reaching the northern boundary of Stark County it veers slightly eastward, crossing the northeast corner of Osceola Township and entering Marshall County. Just south of Camp Grove it again turns toward the west and re-enters Stark County in section 12, Valley Township. It crosses the southern boundary of the county about



three-fourths of a mile west of the southeast corner. Two stations have been established in Stark County by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company—Morse, in the northeast corner of Osceola Township, and Speer, in the southeastern part of Valley Township.

Two townships of Stark County—Elmira and West Jersey—are without railroads. In the other six the valuation of railroad property is as follows: Essex, \$116,382; Goshen, \$63,428; Osceola, \$107,029; Penn, \$78,354; Toulon, \$82,644; Valley, \$77,881. This total of \$525,718 is the value as fixed for tax purposes, but it is far below the real value of the property.

## CHAPTER XI

### FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

PUBLIC REVENUES—PROPERTY VALUES—PRINCIPAL FUNDS RAISED BY TAXATION—BANKING INSTITUTIONS—GENERAL HISTORY—EARLY BANKING IN ILLINOIS—STARK COUNTY BANKS—AGRICULTURE—CROP AND LIVE STOCK STATISTICS—STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE—FARMERS' INSTITUTES—COAL MINING—MANUFACTURING—TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

There is a story of an old man who once counseled his son that "The best way to establish and keep a good credit is never to use it." This seems to have been the policy of Stark County from the time of its organization in 1839. With the exception of the railroad bonds mentioned in the preceding chapter, and a few county warrants to cover a small floating debt at times, the county has never issued promises to pay, but has lived strictly within its income. And it is worthy of comment that during the entire three-quarters of a century of the county's corporate existence there has never been a defalcation on the part of any public official, nor any serious charge of unusual or unwonted extravagance in the expenditure of public funds. With such a record it is not surprising that the county has an unquestionable reputation in the matter of public credit. Should the authorities find it necessary to issue bonds, it is an easy matter to predict that they would command a good price in the market and find ready purchasers. Few counties in the United States—especially those that have been organized for three-quarters of a century—can say, "We do not owe a single dollar."

The property values of the several townships and corporations in 1914, as shown by the official records, were as follows:

Elmira Township .....	\$ 758,198
Essex Township .....	756,058
Goshen Township .....	1,000,249
Osceola Township .....	983,845
Penn Township .....	807,147

Toulon Township .....	1,318,600
Valley Township .....	778,955
West Jersey Township .....	735,851
Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific R. R. ....	176,998
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. ....	295,978
Chicago & Northwestern R. R. ....	52,742

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Total.....\$7,664,621

In the above table the assessed values of the cities of Toulon and Wyoming and the villages of Bradford and Lafayette are included in the townships in which they are located. In the State of Illinois the custom prevails of assessing property for taxation at about one-third of its real value. When this fact is taken into consideration it will be seen that the taxables of Stark County are easily worth, in round numbers, \$24,000,000. And even this estimate is too low. Of the 184,320 acres of land in the county, the average valuation, based upon recent actual sales, would be not far from \$200 per acre. This gives a valuation of \$36,874,000 for the lands alone. Add to these figures the value of improvements, personal and corporation property, moneys and credits, and the property of the county would show a valuation of fifty millions or more.

The total amount of tax collected in 1914 was \$213,929.96, the principal items of which were as follows:

State tax .....	\$36,800.53
County tax .....	26,070.77
Road and bridge fund.....	44,703.80
School fund .....	61,134.03

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Total.....\$168,709.13

Deducting the total of these four principal items from the entire amount of tax collected leaves a balance of \$45,229.83 to be used for all other purposes. The tax rate upon the low valuation of \$7,664,621 is less than 3 per cent, and if the property of the county were appraised for tax purposes at its actual value, with the same amount of revenue collected, the rate of taxation would probably be the lowest in the United States.

#### BANKING INSTITUTIONS

A crude system of banking was inaugurated early in the Christian era by the Venetian money-changers. The Bank of Venice was

established in 1172 and continued in business until 1797. Jewish money-lenders invented "foreign bills of exchange" in the latter part of the thirteenth century, but the Bank of Barcelona (established in 1401) was the first financial institution that made a business of issuing them. The Bank of Genoa, which commenced business in 1407, was the first to issue notes that passed as currency. They passed by endorsement, however, not being made "payable to bearer." The same bank introduced the system of drawing against deposit accounts by checks. The Bank of Hamburg was opened in 1619 and the Bank of England in 1694. Each of the above institutions was an improvement upon its predecessors, hence the business of banking as conducted today is the product of nearly eight centuries of evolution since the first organized bank was established in Venice.

The first banking house in the United States was formed by an association of citizens of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1780. Four days later Congress passed an act granting the association authority to conduct a general banking business, and two years afterward a "perpetual charter" was granted to the Bank of North America, located at Philadelphia. In 1784 the Bank of Massachusetts was chartered. In the same year the Bank of New York commenced operations, but it did not receive its charter until 1791.

The Bank of the United States was established by act of Congress in 1791. At first a majority of the stock was held by the United States Government, but this was gradually disposed of and the bank became a private corporation. In 1832 a bill to recharter the bank was vetoed by President Andrew Jackson. This caused the bank to lose a great deal of its prestige as a financial institution: the panic of 1837 so seriously affected its affairs that on October 5, 1838, it was forced to suspend specie payments. After a precarious career of about five years more, the bank finally closed its doors in 1843.

Then came the era of state and private banks which lasted until the beginning of the Civil war. During this period the country was flooded by what became known as "wild cat" banks—that is, banks established by individuals or corporations without sufficient capital for successfully conducting a banking business or adequate means for meeting their obligations. In 1863 an act of Congress established the national banking system, and the first comptroller of the currency was appointed in 1864. In March, 1866, another act of Congress levied a 10 per cent tax upon the note issues of all state and private banks and since that time all paper currency in the United States has been issued by the Government or by the national banks.

## EARLY BANKING IN ILLINOIS

One of the first banks in Illinois was the Bank of Shawneetown, which was chartered by the Territorial Legislature for twenty years, beginning on January 1, 1817. The next year Illinois was admitted into the Union as a state. Article 8, section 21, of the constitution adopted in that year provided:

"There shall be no other banks or moneyed institutions in this state than those already established by law, except a state bank and its branches, which may be established and regulated by the General Assembly of the state as they may think proper."

From the time the state was admitted to about 1830, its experience in banking was unpleasant, if not actually disastrous, but in the face of necessity for some form of circulating medium adequate to the demands of business the lesson such an experience should teach was forgotten. The internal improvement scheme was inaugurated and a large amount of state bonds were sold to construct the contemplated improvements authorized. The ninth General Assembly provided for a new state bank with a capital stock of \$1,500,000 and the state was given the right to subscribe for \$100,000 of the stock "whenever in the judgment of the General Assembly the condition of the treasury would justify such action." The charter of the state bank thus established was to expire on January 1, 1860. At the same session the charter of the old Bank of Shawneetown, which had been inactive for ten years, was extended for twenty years beyond the original date of expiration (January 1, 1837) and the bank reorganized under the name of the Bank of Illinois.

At the next session of the Legislature the capital stock of the State Bank of Illinois was increased from \$1,500,000 to \$3,500,000, and that of the Bank of Illinois from \$300,000 to \$1,700,000, the state reserving the right to subscribe for all the increase of the former and \$1,000,000 of the latter. Then came the panic of 1837, when both banks were forced to suspend specie payment. The State Bank failed in February, 1842, and the Bank of Illinois closed its doors the following June, notwithstanding the most liberal laws had been passed in the hope of keeping their heads above water.

The winter of 1842-43 was a critical period in the financial history of the state. The failure of the banks, in which the state held large interests, had a depressing effect upon the public credit of Illinois. The state debt was over fifteen millions of dollars, with interest past due, and the bonds fell below par, selling sometimes as low as 20 cents

on the dollar. Without banks there was a scarcity of circulating medium and all lines of industry languished. Many people claimed that large sums had been wasted in the internal improvement scheme and in speculation, and advocated the repudiation of the debt.

Stark County, then only about four years old, was affected by the existing conditions. On March 8, 1843, the board of commissioners ordered: "That Minott Silliman, treasurer of Stark County, be employed and authorized to exchange the State Bank money now in the treasury of said county, amounting to about sixteen hundred dollars, for the pro rata of specie paid by said bank, and the balance in certificates of State Bank indebtedness, and that he have the same in the treasury as soon as practicable."

Mr. Silliman made the exchange, receiving \$467.31 in specie and \$1,147.37 in certificates of indebtedness, or a total of \$1,614.68. Some of the certificates were paid out to county officials "for services" at the rate of 50 cents on the dollar, and some time later the state redeemed the proportion represented by stock held in the defunct bank.

Before the state fully recovered from the panic of 1837 and the depression caused by the gigantic internal improvement scheme, the second state constitution was adopted. Article 10, section 3, of the constitution of 1848 provided that "no state bank shall hereafter be created, nor shall the state own or be liable for any stock in any corporation or joint stock association for banking purposes, to be hereafter created."

The constitution also provided that individual stock holders in every bank should be liable to the full amount of stock owned by them. It was a case of the "burnt child dreads the fire," and the framers of the new constitution took the precautions to prevent the state, through its law makers, from again committing the folly of becoming a stockholder in any banking institution. The provisions of the constitution of 1848 were incorporated in the present constitution when it was adopted in 1870, so far as state ownership of bank stock is concerned.

#### STARK COUNTY BANKS

The first bank in Stark County was established at Toulon in 1860.

It was known as the Bank of Toulon and was conducted by the firm of Small & Walley, though the real proprietor was Benjamin Lombard. Bonds of the states of Georgia and South Carolina were used as the basis of security for the bank's circulation. When the

bank failed, after a short career, the holders of its notes lost about 25 per cent of their face value and the depositors lost even more.

About the close of the Civil war Samuel M. Dewey, a Toulon merchant, began loaning money, and in December, 1865, the banking house of Dewey & Burge was opened on the north side of Main Street, nearly opposite the northwest corner of the public square. Mr. Dewey died in August, 1866, but the firm of Dewey & Burge continued until 1869, when Samuel Burge purchased the interest of the Dewey estate. In 1875 he erected the building at the northwest corner of Main and Washington streets and removed the bank to new quarters. Charles P. Dewey, a son of the founder, became a partner in 1879. The business is now conducted under the firm name of Dewey, Burge & Gould, the partners being Charles P. Dewey, Samuel D. Burge and William E. Gould. The paid up capital stock of the bank is \$50,000, and the surplus \$25,000, and the deposits \$500,000.

The Exchange Bank of Wyoming was opened in 1869 by A. B. Miner, with Otis Dyer as resident manager. After a short time the name of Exchange Bank was dropped and the business was continued under the firm name of A. B. Miner & Company. In 1876 William Holgate and four others purchased the interests of A. B. Miner & Company and changed the name of the institution to the Farmers Bank. The five partners then conducted the bank as a private concern until the fall of 1882, when it was reorganized as the First National Bank of Wyoming, with James Holgate, president; William Holgate, Cyrus Bocoek, Levi Silliman, John A. Klock and W. P. Buswell, vice presidents; Andrew F. Stickney, cashier. It began business as a national bank on March 15, 1883, and continued as such until early in the year 1885, when it went into voluntary liquidation, the interests being transferred to the banking house of Scott & Wrigley.

The Scott & Wrigley Bank of Wyoming commenced business as a private bank in 1870. A few years later H. A. Hammond was admitted to a partnership and the firm took the name of Scott, Wrigley & Hammond. In 1910 the name was again changed, the firm then becoming Scott, Walters & Rakestraw, under which it still continues. This is one of the leading banking concerns of the county and maintains branches at Castleton and Duncan, W. H. Hartz being in charge of the Castleton branch and E. V. Graves at Duncan.

William Leet opened the Exchange Bank at Bradford in 1872 as a private banking house. It is now known as the Bradford Exchange Bank, with Rosa L. Thompson, president; Robert Thompson, cashier;





PHENIX BANK, BRADFORD



INTERIOR VIEW OF PHENIX BANK

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J. E. Harney, assistant cashier. C. W. & Harmon Phenix also began the banking business at Bradford about the time the Exchange Bank was started. The business they established is now conducted under the name of the Phenix Banking Company.

The State Bank of Speer was organized in 1902 under the general banking laws of the State of Illinois with a capital stock of \$25,000. It has been prosperous from the beginning and in September, 1915, reported a surplus fund of \$14,000 and deposits of \$100,000. At that time the officers of the bank were as follows: John Turnbull, president; Adam Davidson, vice president; Benjamin E. Davis, cashier.

Two banks were established in Stark County in 1903—the State Bank of Toulon and the National Bank of Wyoming. The capital stock of the State Bank of Toulon was fixed at \$25,000 and the first officers were: S. M. Adams, president; D. K. Fell, vice president; W. W. Fuller, cashier. In September, 1915, this bank reported a surplus of \$25,000, undivided profits amounting to \$10,711, and deposits of \$275,000. S. M. Adams was then president; R. E. Taylor, vice president; E. H. Lloyd, cashier, George Nowlan, assistant cashier.

The National Bank of Wyoming occupies a neat and well arranged building erected expressly for the purpose. The capital stock of the bank is \$50,000; the surplus, \$25,000; and the deposits, \$275,000. In October, 1915, James Harty was president; John T. Colgan, vice president; A. J. Adams, cashier; D. J. Colgan and Hazel Sellon, assistant cashiers. This bank enjoys the distinction of being the only national bank in Stark County.

The first bank in Lafayette was opened by Bailey & Beecher as a private banking house, in the building occupied in 1915 by Aldredge's store. Bailey & Beecher sold out to Dewey & Potter, who conducted the bank but a short time when they in turn sold to A. M. Janes. Mr. Janes continued the institution as a private bank until early in the spring of 1915, when it was incorporated as the State Bank of Lafayette, beginning business under the new name on March 9, 1915, with a capital stock of \$25,000 and the following officers: A. M. Janes, president; Baxter Fuller and Alexander Inglis, vice presidents; W. N. Nelson, cashier. The bank has its home in a substantial building erected purposely for its accommodation, and on September 30, 1915, reported deposits of \$85,000.

Six of the eight banks in the county reported deposits in September, 1915, aggregating \$1, 235,000. Scott, Walters & Rakestraw,

of Wyoming, and the two Bradford banks, being private institutions, chose to exercise the privilege granted to such banks of withholding information regarding the amount of their deposits. It is probable, however, that they carry deposits that would raise the total for the entire county to nearly or quite two million dollars—approximately two hundred dollars for each man, woman and child residing in the county. If the bank deposits of a community form any index to its prosperity, Stark County certainly has no cause for complaint.

#### AGRICULTURE

Farming and stock raising have always been the leading occupations of the citizens of Stark County. From the small clearing in the timber or the sod cornfield on the prairie in 1840, the agricultural interests have gradually developed until in 1915 practically all the agricultural land of the county was under cultivation. Originally some of the land was too wet to produce good crops, but, according to a bulletin issued by the State Board of Agriculture on August 1, 1915, there are over one thousand miles (5,451,540 feet) of drain tile upon the farms of the county, and the total number of acres under cultivation was 180,576.

There is neither poetry nor romance in figures, and statistics as a rule are regarded as "dry reading," but the story of a community's progress can often be better told in statistics than in any other way. Adopting that method, then, for the purpose of showing Stark County's agricultural status, the following tables have been compiled from the bulletin of the State Board of Agriculture of December 1, 1914, to show the principal crops, miscellaneous products, and live stock conditions:

	Acres	Bushels	Value
Corn .....	60,232	1,325,104	\$ 795,062
Oats .....	37,600	2,256,000	924,960
Wheat .....	2,270	58,572	56,715
Rye .....	795	15,900	12,243
Barley .....	650	19,500	15,600
Potatoes. ....	115	2,330	1,980
Hay (all kinds). .	40,000	50,000 tons	650,000
Pasture. ....	33,650		168,250
Total. ....	175,312		\$2,624,810

The value of the crops was determined by the condition of the market at the time the bulletin was issued by the State Board of Agriculture and would have brought the prices indicated had the products been sold on December 1, 1914.

Deducting the total acreage, as given in the above table, from 180,576, the number of acres under cultivation, leaves 5,284 acres for "truck patches" and lawns about the homes of the farmers. In addition to the crops given in the table, the farmers of Stark County sold during the year the following miscellaneous products:

	Amount	Value
Timothy seed . . . . .	24 bushels	\$ 96.00
Clover seed . . . . .	21 bushels	210.00
Millet seed . . . . .	27 bushels	100.00
Wool . . . . .	16,935 pounds	4,234.00
Butter . . . . .	15,772 pounds	4,732.00
Honey. . . . .	988 pounds	119.00
Milk . . . . .	2,567 gallons	770.00
Poultry . . . . .		4,098.00
Eggs . . . . .		1,825.00
Cheese . . . . .		187.00

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Total value. . . . . \$16,371.00

The number and value of domestic animals on May 1, 1914, as estimated by the State Board of Agriculture, was as follows:

	Number	Value
Horses. . . . .	7,197	Not given
Hogs . . . . .	11,888	\$133,204
Cattle. . . . .	13,977	282,370
Sheep. . . . .	3,978	23,486

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Total value. . . . . \$439,060

Of the cattle enumerated, 1,275 were dairy cows. During the year the number of sheep sold was 875; the number of hogs, 9,867; the number of cattle, 2,921, the value of the entire product being based upon the prices received for those marketed. It will be noticed that the value of horses is not given. If it were included, together with the value of animals not mentioned in the agricultural bulletin, such as mules, goats, etc., the value of the live stock of Stark County in 1914 would easily reach half a million dollars.

## STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

The Illinois State Board of Agriculture was created by the act of April 15, 1872, and during the forty-three years it has been in existence it has wielded a wide influence upon the farming and stock raising interests of the state. The board is composed of one member from each Congressional district, who is a vice president of the board. In 1915 the member from the Sixteenth district was J. P. Code, of Bradford, Stark County. Besides the state fair, which is held under the supervision of the State Board of Agriculture each year, and which is generally recognized as one of the finest agricultural exhibits in the country, the board collects and publishes every year a statistical report of the crops throughout the state. To accomplish this work in a manner that will insure authenticity in the results, a corps of crop correspondents, representing every county in the state, collects and sends in the necessary information. In 1914 the crop correspondents for Stark County were: Duncan McKenzie, M. B. Downend and A. Leroy Hazen.

## FARMERS' INSTITUTES

Along toward the close of the Nineteenth Century the custom of holding farmers' institutes was adopted in most of the states of the Middle West. The Illinois State Farmers' Institute was created by the act of June 24, 1895. The act provided for an ex-officio board of directors to be composed of the superintendent of public instruction, the dean of the College of Agriculture, and the presidents of the State Board of Agriculture, the State Horticultural Society and the State Dairymen's Association. In addition to this there is a board of twenty-five directors, elective by Congressional districts. This state institute undertook the work of directing the county institutes, the state making a small appropriation to such counties as would hold farmers' institutes under certain conditions.

An act of the Legislature, approved on June 5, 1911, authorized the boards of county supervisors in counties having township organization, or the commissioners in counties without township organization, "to appropriate from the county treasury, for the use of the county farmers' institutes in their efforts to promote the adoption of the latest approved methods of crop production, the conservation of soil fertility, and the improvement of agricultural conditions generally; provided, that in no case shall it be lawful for a county board to appropriate more than \$300 in any one year for the above purposes."

For a number of years the farmers of Stark County held institutes at some time during the winter months. On a number of these occasions the board of supervisors made appropriations under the above mentioned act to assist in defraying the expenses. Instructors from the State College of Agriculture gave lectures on various subjects in which the farmers are interested; corn contests were conducted under the auspices of the institute officials and prizes awarded to the winners; boys and young men were taught to judge the "points" of various kinds of live stock; the best methods of preparing ground, selecting seed, and many other subjects of live interest to the farmer were discussed. The attendance was generally good and those who came went away feeling well repaid for their time and trouble.

The last institute held in the county was in 1913. M. B. Downend was then president; W. W. Wright, secretary; Fred Winans, treasurer. These three men and their associates spared no effort to make the institute a success and their efforts were rewarded by the largest attendance ever witnessed at an institute in Stark County, about five hundred people being present. Much of the work formerly done through the county institutes is now being done by the public schools. In the township high school at Toulon, and some of the other schools of the county, instruction is given and experimental work done in various branches of agriculture.

With the annual products of the farms, in crops and live stock, running over three millions of dollars; with more than a thousand miles of drain tile in the wet land districts; with a soil unsurpassed in fertility, and with the influence of the College of Agriculture permeating every nook and corner, the business of farming in Stark County is constantly rising to a higher plane and being conducted upon a more scientific basis. Other industries may be established and may prosper, but it is quite certain that for years to come "corn is king" in the little County of Stark.

#### COAL MINING

In the first chapter of this work some account is given of the coal deposits, in their relation to the geology of the county. Probably the first attention to the coal beds of Stark County was attracted through the report of Professor Wilbur, who made some investigations in this part of the state and gave the product the name of "Spoon River" coal. Professor Wilbur predicted a profitable business in mining coal. Says he: "The fortunate position of the Spoon River coal



field gives us occasion to make a few remarks as regards its future value. It is situated near the Mississippi River, whose coal trade in barges northward will soon equal its lumber trade southward, distributing these mining products at the depots of 15,000 miles of shore, on either side. It is bounded on the north by the Silliman district, which occupies 17,000 square miles of Northern Illinois, all of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and Northern Iowa. This vast area is entirely void of coal, depending solely upon transportation from the nearest coal deposits.

"The limit of workable coal may be safely put at eighty miles northwest and southeast by thirty miles northeast and southwest, giving an area of 2,400 square miles. In this field there are two veins of coal, having a combined thickness of nine feet. To measure the amount in tons we must take one cubic yard for every ton as a measuring unit. A stratum of coal three feet thick would therefore give a cubic yard for every square yard of surface. Hence, an acre of three-foot coal would contain 4,840 tons; but in this field we have a thickness of nine feet, and an acre here must therefore contain 14,520 tons. The aggregate of tons contained in the field, whose limit we have assumed as eighty by thirty miles, is 22,302,720,000 tons. Now, if we distribute 1,000 tons per day, it will require 75,000 years to exhaust the supply, allowing 300 working days per year."

These predictions are certainly optimistic enough, but subsequent developments demonstrated that Professor Wilbur was somewhat mistaken in his calculations, both as to the area of the field and the thickness of the deposits.

So far as can be learned, the first coal mined in the county was about 1854 or 1855, when a few of the early settlers commenced taking coal in small quantities from the outcrops along Jack Creek and Jug Run. A little later David and William Howard opened a mine in section 23, Toulon Township, about two miles and a half north of Wyoming and not far from the Spoon River. About the same time the Howards opened their mine, John Robinson and Richard Howarth (commonly called "Shanty Dick" by his neighbors) did some mining on section 25, about a mile and a half southeast of the Howard mine. A shaft was sunk in this locality some years later and a considerable quantity of coal was taken out. The passenger on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad can still see the ruins of the abandoned mine from the car windows.

In 1857 James Fraser came from England and settled in Stark County. He was a practical miner, having previously worked in the

Newcastle collieries in his native land. He formed a partnership with Thomas Tunsall, another Englishman, and the two leased a part of section 14, Toulon Township, from Elisha Dixon. Their mine was worked systematically, the slack and sulphur being taken from the coal, and the product of the Fraser & Tunsall mine found a ready sale. In 1858 this firm purchased a part of Section 23, near the Howard mine, opened a mine there and that year sold about one thousand tons.

About the beginning of the Civil war in 1861, John McLaughlin was carrying on a successful mining business at what was called the Foster coal bank, two and a half miles west of Bradford, near the East Fork of the Spoon River. North of that about two miles was the S. C. Francis mine, mentioned by H. A. Green in his geological report of the county for 1870, and between the McLoughlin and Francis mines was the Bradford shaft, in section 21, also mentioned by Green in his report.

Shortly after the close of the Civil war the Lathrop Coal Company began mining on a more extensive scale than had up to that time been attempted in the county. The mines of this company were constructed on the most approved plans known to that period, being provided with steam hoisting apparatus, pumps for keeping the mines clear of water, escape shafts for the miners, side tracks, screens, chutes, etc., and tenements and boarding houses for the miners. It was operated in the vicinity of Wyoming and the products of its mines were shipped to distant cities, so the local miners had no opposition from the big concern. In 1874 the output of the Lathrop mines was about three hundred and fifty tons daily. At the same time the local miners, who were operating on a smaller scale and supplying the local market, were turning out about 7,000 bushels of coal every week.

Among these local operators were Fred Charleston, Peter Herberger, William and Henry Newton and John Cummings, whose mines were situated at different points in Toulon Township. William Newton's mine, known as the "Coe coal bank," was opened about 1866 and at one time employed about fifteen men. Around Modena was also a favorite field for the operator with small capital.

In Elmira Township the outcrops along the West Fork of the Spoon River were worked at an early date by some of the settlers, who thus obtained a supply of coal for their own use. So far as can be learned, the first shaft sunk in this township was that of Thomas Oliver, which was opened late in the year 1885. It was located about a mile north of the village of Elmira and turned out a large block coal equal in quality to any produced in the county.

When Green made his geological survey of the county in 1869-70, he found a number of workings around Modena, in Osceola Township, along Jack Creek and near Cox's mill in Essex Township. But in recent years many of the mines have become "worked out" and have been abandoned, the great piles of shale and the ramshackle buildings standing as mute monuments to a bygone industry. Some mining is still carried on in the county, the largest single working probably being the "Big Hit" mine, which is situated directly east of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, between Wyoming and Castleton.

#### MANUFACTURING

Stark has never been a manufacturing county to any considerable extent. The first factories of any kind were grist mills, to supply the pioneers with material for making the "staff of life," and saw mills, for the purpose of providing them with lumber that they might have shelter for themselves and families. Perhaps the first mill in the county was the one built by Harmon Leek on the Spoon River, not far from where the Wyoming and Toulon road crosses the stream. Mrs. Shallenberger says: "It was built as early as 1833 or 1834, had one run of stone, and there was a saw mill attached to it. The dam was made of brush, hay and gravel, and the whole thing was poorly constructed. In the winter of 1835 or 1836 Minott Silliman rented the entire concern for the coming year for thirty dollars. But the high waters of the opening spring swept dam and mill away, to the dead loss of Mr. Silliman of the thirty dollars paid in advance, and an equal amount of prospective profits."

Sylvanus Moore built a mill at an early date a short distance above Leek's, on the farm afterward known as the "General Thomas Homestead," and Lemuel S. Dorrance had a mill on the river not far from the present village of Modena. The latter was afterward known as Fuller's mill. Shortly after the Dorrance mill was completed he took Samuel G. Breese into partnership and the Dorrance and Breese mill was one of the landmarks of Stark County for years. One of the buhrs used in this old mill was kept by Mr. Breese as a relic for fully half a century.

In 1837 Enoch Cox came from Ohio, where he had followed the milling business, and built a mill on Indian Creek a short distance from its mouth. It was not long until he found the supply of water insufficient for the purpose of furnishing the power, and removed to the mouth of Camping Run, about three and a half miles south of

Wyoming, where he built a larger and better equipped mill, his brother, Thomas Cox, becoming associated with him in the latter enterprise.

Andrew Dray, one of the early settlers, built a mill on Indian Creek, Parker & Bradford had one on Jack Creek, and Amsey Newman's mill was on Cooper's Defeat, near the northern boundary of Penn Township. Newman also had a chair factory, where he made the old-fashioned split bottom chairs and spinning wheels, which found a ready sale among the early families of the county. Asher Smith had a tanyard near Newman's mill and made a good quality of leather. John Prior, of Toulon, also made chairs and a few other articles of furniture of the primitive type.

Probably the first steam mill in the county was the one built by Dexter Wall at the old village of Waldron, in the northwestern part of Penn Township. After running the mill there for a while he removed it to Wyoming, where it became widely known as the Viola Mills, having three run of buhrs. In 1886 the mill was remodeled and the roller process introduced, after which it was operated for some time by Charles C. Priester. The machinery was then moved away and the building in 1915 was used by Frank S. Foster as a feather sorting and renovating establishment.

The Valley Mills at Wyoming stood about one block west of the Rock Island Railroad station and were conducted for several years by C. S. Payne. This mill had three run of buhrs and did a successful business, a considerable quantity of flour being shipped to Peoria and other markets. The ruins of the old mill can still be seen. There were a few other mills in the county at various periods of its history, but the ones above mentioned were the best known.

One of the most pretentious manufacturing establishments of early days was the flour and woolen mills of John Culbertson at Toulon. Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "While he never expected to reap great profits himself from this investment, he did hope to make these mills a public benefit and link his name with home enterprises and industries." The mills were operated under his personal supervision and employed a number of people, some of whom were skilled workmen, but after Mr. Culbertson's death in 1869 the industry was allowed to languish and finally went down.

Another pioneer carding mill was located on Walnut Creek, in West Jersey Township, or as it was then known "Massillon Precinct." It was owned by Charles Yoeum and Washington Trickle and did a thriving business at a time when the good women of the county spun

their own yarn, wove it into flannel and jeans, and made most of the garments worn by the several members of the family.

In the history of Goshen Township mention is made of William Dunbar, the "Old Hatter" of Lafayette. It is said that he would take a large number of hats fastened together, throw them over his shoulders, mount a horse and start out on a peddling expedition, remaining away until his stock was disposed of, when he would return home and begin the manufacture of another supply. In this way he carried on a successful trade for a number of years, or until the "factory" hats, which sold for lower prices, forced him out of the market.

A cheese manufacturing company was organized at Toulon in December, 1874, with a capital stock of \$5,000, and began operations in May, 1875. Its first year's product amounted to 41,800 pounds of cheese. After running for a few years the business was discontinued, and in January, 1885, the old cheese factory was converted into a skating rink. A bulletin of the State Board of Agriculture issued on December 1, 1914, shows that during the preceding year there were 1,244 pounds of cheese manufactured in the county.

Muchmore & Phenix engaged in the manufacture of wagons at Bradford at a comparatively early date. W. White & Company conducted a wagon and carriage factory at Toulon, and J. B. Robinson was engaged in the same line of business at Wyoming. John B. Maxfield began making brick near Toulon about the close of the Civil war; James P. Headley operated a brick yard at Toulon along in the '80s; Higbee & Damon were engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile at Wyoming at the same time, and among the other manufactured products of the county may be mentioned cigars, harness, sorghum molasses and a few other minor articles. In 1915 a large bakery at Wyoming shipped bread to a number of the surrounding towns.

#### TELEPHONE COMPANIES

Although the telephone company is not an "industry," in the sense that it manufactures or produces any commodity, it is one of the greatest aids to business of all kinds in modern times. Before the introduction of the telephone and the free rural delivery of mail, the farmer depended largely upon his weekly newspaper and the information brought by his neighbors when they "went to town" for his market reports. Now many of the farmers have telephones in their houses and the rural carriers bring the daily papers to nearly every household in Stark County.

On March 1, 1902, the Toulon Mutual Telephone Company was

granted right of way for their lines along certain highways in the county by the board of supervisors, and soon afterward the work of construction was commenced. Just a month later (April 1, 1902) the Castleton Telephone Company, which was organized by A. B. Hoff and A. L. Johnson, was granted right of way over some of the roads in the eastern part of the county. About five years later the interests of these two companies were consolidated in the Stark County Telephone Company, which was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, with a capital stock of \$20,000. In October, 1915, the company was operating exchanges at Toulon, Wyoming, Castleton, Camp Grove, Duncan and Elmira, with about two thousand telephones connected with its lines. The building at Toulon, in which are the exchange and general offices of the company, was erected expressly for the purpose in 1914, and the exchange building at Camp Grove is also owned by the company, the other exchanges occupying leased quarters. The officers of the company in 1915 were: W. F. Price, president and general manager; A. B. Hoff, manager of the eastern division; W. R. Sandham, secretary; C. P. Dewey, treasurer. The board of directors was composed of the above officers, J. W. Walters, Arthur Walters, James T. Rogers, Jehiel Fuller, William Jackson and J. H. Duncan.

On June 2, 1900, the Osceola-Neponset Telephone Company and the Buda-Bradford Telephone Company were both granted the privilege of setting poles and running wires along highways mentioned in their respective petitions. Of the former company Frank W. Bates was then president and A. E. Stetson, secretary; and of the latter company Frank Kopp was president and Hollis Blauvelt, secretary.

The Lafayette Telephone Company—C. A. Buffum, president; F. W. Eltzroth, secretary—was granted a right of way on April 17, 1901. The Milo-Bradford Telephone Company, of which Festus Bently was president and Cyrus Bocoek, secretary, was granted similar concessions on March 11, 1902; the Duncan Telephone Company, through its secretary, J. W. McNay, filed a petition with the board of supervisors on April 15, 1902, which was granted the same day; and on June 10, 1902, right of way was granted to the West Jersey Telephone Company, of which Watson Eghert was president, and Thomas J. Dryden, secretary.

By an arrangement with the Stark County Telephone Company, all the lines of these local companies are connected through the exchanges of the former, giving long distance service to all parts of the county. The advantages resulting from this service can hardly be estimated.



## CHAPTER XII

### EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHARACTER OF THE EARLY SCHOOLS—SCHOOLHOUSE AND FURNITURE—  
TEXT-BOOKS—SPELLING SCHOOLS—THE THREE R'S—PUBLIC SCHOOL  
SYSTEM—STARK COUNTY SCHOOLS—PIONEER TEACHERS—EDUCA-  
TIONAL PROGRESS BY TOWNSHIPS—THE SEMINARY—TOULON PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS—TOULON ACADEMY—WYOMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS—SCHOOL  
OFFICERS—TEACHERS' INSTITUTE—TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION—THE  
PRESS—BRIEF HISTORIES OF THE VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS—EXTINCT  
NEWSPAPERS—PUBLIC LIBRARIES—WYOMING — TOULON — LAFAY-  
ETTE — B R A D F O R D — ELMIRA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION—SCHOOL  
LIBRARIES.

The young people who enjoy the excellent educational facilities offered by the Stark County public schools in this year 1916 can hardly be expected to realize the difficulties encountered by their fathers and grandfathers in the acquisition of an education three-quarters of a century ago, when the first white people in what is now Stark County established their homes. Then there were no public funds with which to build schoolhouses and pay the salaries of teachers. When a sufficient number of settlers had located in a neighborhood to support a school they would join together in the erection of a schoolhouse at some central point, where it would be most convenient for the children. These early schoolhouses were invariably of logs, with clapboard roof and puncheon floor, sometimes, in fact, having no floor except "mother earth." If money enough could be raised in the frontier settlement, and it was not too far to some trading post, a real window of sash and glass would be placed in each side of the building, but in many instances the only light came through oiled paper fastened to a framework of slender strips over the aperture formed by leaving out a section of one of the logs. Stoves were a luxury and the school room was imperfectly heated by a great fireplace at one end. On cold days those sitting near the fire would become too warm, while those farther away would be suffering with



cold. One can imagine the confusion in the school caused by pupils constantly changing their seats to "get warm."

The furniture of the school room was of the most primitive character. Seats were made by splitting in halves a tree of some eight or ten inches in diameter, driving pins into holes bored in the half-round sides for legs, and then smoothing the upper surface with a draw-knife. The legs stood at an angle that would insure stability to the "bench." Under the window was the writing desk, which was made by boring holes in the wall at a slight angle and driving stout pins into the holes to support a wide board, the top of which would be dressed smooth to serve as a table, at which the pupils would take their turns at writing.

The text-books used in that day were usually Webster's spelling book, the English or McGuffey's readers, Pike's, Daboll's, Talbott's or Ray's arithmetics, and if the teacher knew enough to teach such studies and the district was inclined to be aristocratic, Olney's geography and Kirkham's or Butler's grammar. The teacher of that day was seldom a graduate of a higher institution of learning, knew nothing of normal school training, and rarely made any special preparation for the work. If he could read and spell well, write well enough to "set copies" for the children to imitate, and could "do all the sums" in the arithmetic up to and including the "Rule of Three," he was qualified to teach. There was one qualification, however, which could not be overlooked in the teacher of that period. He must be a man of sufficient physical strength to hold the unruly boys in subjection and preserve order in the school. With the pioneer pedagogue "to spare the rod was to spoil the child." Not many children were spoiled, for at the beginning of the term a bundle of tough switches were gathered and displayed to the best advantage as a sort of prophylactic. If the mere sight of these switches did not deter the bad boy from committing some infraction of the rules, a vigorous application of one of them generally had a tendency to cure his frolicsome disposition.

On the theory that no one could become a good reader without first being a good speller, more attention was given to orthography during the child's early school days than to any other branch of study. Spelling schools of evenings were of frequent occurrence, and in these matches the parents would nearly always take part. Two "captains" would be selected to "choose up," the one winning the first choice would select the best speller present, the other the next best, and so on until all who desired to participate were divided into two equal sides. Then the teacher "gave out" the words alternately from side

to side. When one mis-spelled a word he took his seat. The one who stood longest won the victory, and to "spell down" a whole school district was considered quite an achievement.

After the child could spell fairly well he was taught to read. Then came the writing lessons. The copy-books used in the early schools bore no lithographed line at the top. They were generally of the "home-made" variety, consisting of a few sheets of foolscap paper covered with a sheet of heavy wrapping paper. At the top of the page the teacher would write a line or "copy," which was usually some motto or proverb intended to convey a moral lesson as well as to give the pupil a specimen of penmanship to imitate; such as "Evil communications corrupt good manners," "Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well," etc. When one stops to consider that the term of school was rarely over three months, that the same teacher hardly ever taught two terms in succession in the same place, and that each teacher had a different style of penmanship, it is a wonder the young people of that day learned to write as well as many of them did.

Next came the arithmetic. In the pronunciation of this word the sound of the initial letter was often dropped and it was pronounced 'rithmetic. And the fact that Readin', 'Ritin' and 'Rithmetic were regarded as the essentials of a practical education gave rise to the expression "the three R's." If one understood the three R's he was equipped for the great battle of life, so far as ordinary business affairs were concerned.

But during the years that have passed since the first white man came to Stark County educational development has kept step with industrial progress. The old log schoolhouse, with its crude furniture, has disappeared and in its place has come the commodious structure of brick or stone. Steam heat, or a warm air furnace, has supplanted the old fireplace, giving a uniform temperature to the school room. The teacher now must show fitness and training for his calling. The bundle of "gads" is no longer kept on exhibition as a terror to evil-doers and corporal punishment is no longer considered a necessary part of the educational system. Yet, under the old regime, professional men who afterward achieved world-wide reputations, chief justices, United States senators, great inventors, and even presidents of the United States acquired their rudimentary education in the old log schoolhouse.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

The enabling act of April 18, 1818, which authorized the people of Illinois to adopt a constitution preparatory to being admitted into

the Union as a state, set apart section 16 in each Congressional township as the basis of a perpetual common school fund, the income of which was to be used for the education of the youth of the state. At the beginning of the present century the value of these sections was \$11,000,000, but the school lands then unsold were valued at only \$4,625,000.

In 1836 Congress passed an act dividing the surplus in the national treasury among the states. Illinois received \$335,000, which was added to the permanent school fund. Technically this distribution was a loan to the state, but no demand has ever been made for its repayment—nor is any demand likely to be made—and the state's school fund has been permanently enriched by that amount.

A county school fund was established by the Legislature of 1837, the income of which was to be added to the general school fund each year. The county school fund amounted to \$162,000 at the beginning, but has been slightly increased by the addition of certain unclaimed funds in the public treasury, etc. From these several sources, Illinois has built up a school fund of about fourteen millions of dollars, which can be increased, but cannot be legally diminished. The permanent school fund is loaned to the state, the interest amounting to about seven hundred thousand dollars per annum, which is used for the support of the public schools, and which is apportioned among the counties in proportion to the number of persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years.

In addition to these various sources of school revenue, each county levies a tax for the support of its free schools under the following provision of the Constitution of 1870: "The General Assembly shall provide a thorough and efficient system of free schools, whereby all children of this state may receive a good common school education."

Pursuant to the above constitutional provision, the Legislature of Illinois has from time to time passed laws for the improvement of the public school system until the state offers to its young people educational facilities that rank high among those of the states of the Union. Stark County's local school tax in 1914 amounted to \$61,134.03, or \$2.34 for each pupil enumerated.

#### STARK COUNTY SCHOOLS

In the chapter on Township History will be found some mention of some of the early schools and the number of school districts in each township at the present time. The first schoolhouse in the county was

raised in Essex Township on July 4, 1834. An account of the "raising," as given by Madison Winn, is given in connection with the history of that township. A school district had been organized there the year before, with Benjamin Smith, Sylvanus Moore and Greenleaf Smith as trustees for the territory embracing township 12 north, range 6 east. After the erection of the schoolhouse the next year, Adam Perry taught the first school in the new structure, which is believed to have been the first school ever taught in the county. Mrs. Shallenberger, in her "Stark County and Its Pioneers," gives the following copy of the receipt signed by Mr. Perry for his salary:

"March 15, 1835.

"Received of Isaac B. Essex \$55.50, in full, for teaching a school three months in town 12 N., range 6 E., which school ended this day.

"ADAM PERRY."

Stark County was then a part of Putnam and Isaac B. Essex was commissioner of the school fund for the township that now bears his name. Under his direction section 16 (the school section) was sold on February 4, 1834, for \$968.70.

The second school in the county was probably that taught by Miss Sabrina Chatfield, which ended on July 8, 1835, and for which she received \$13.00, the term being three months. Miss Chatfield afterward became the wife of B. L. Hilliard and removed to Clark County, Iowa, where she died some years later. Mary Lake also taught a short term in the fall of that year, her receipt being dated November 3, 1835. It states that she taught six weeks and two days, for which she received \$6.31 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Other early teachers were Jesse Heath, Joseph R. Newton, James Dalrymple and William Sammis. Mr. Clifford says of Jesse Heath: "He was a man of fair education, from St. Louis, a 'good fellow' out of school, but a rigid disciplinarian within. He seemed to regard the scholars as blockheads and dolts, because they were so backward. He frightened one of the boys so much that the little fellow stayed at home two weeks in bed, feigning sickness to avoid going to school."

The early schools were frequently of the type known as "subscription schools," for the reason that the public fund was then too small to defray all the expenses of the teacher's salary, provide fuel, etc. L. E. Miner, in a communication to one of the Stark County newspapers some years ago, gives the following account of a school taught by him shortly after the County of Stark was organized:

"In 1839 I was requested to teach a school at Col. W. H. Henderson's. I received subscriptions for scholarships and Colonel Henderson furnished a place for the school in one of his buildings, which was fitted up by cutting a log out of the west side of the cabin and putting greased newspapers in the place of the log. This was all the light we had in the school room. The scholars came from Spoon River—John Bowen from up Indian Creek—besides those nearer by who could walk to school. It was in the winter of 1839-40. There was one family in Toulon at that time, that of John Miller. Colonel Henderson sent seven scholars to my school: William, Thomas, Henry, Webster, Stephen and James, and Felix Wilkinson, a nephew of Mrs. Henderson. John W. Henderson was with his father in attendance on the Legislature at Vandalia."

Mr. Miner fails to state the amount of tuition he received for each scholar, but his description of the schoolhouse will give the reader some idea of the difficulties that had to be encountered and overcome in obtaining an education in the "good old times."

The public school system of Stark County may be said to have had its beginning in the action of the county commissioners at their first session. On April 5, 1839, they appointed James Holgate school commissioner and the next day announced the appointment of the following trustees of the school lands: Township 17, range 7 (now Osceola), J. C. Avery, Henry Seely and A. M. Smith; township 13, range 7 (Penn), Henry Breese, Samuel Camp and Isaac Spencer; township 13, range 6 (Toulon), J. W. Heath, Samuel Seely and Adam Perry; township 12, range 6 (Essex), Calvin Powell, Sr., Moses Boardman and Whitney Smith; township 12, range 5 (West Jersey), William W. Webster, Joseph Palmer and Milton Richards; township 13, range 5 (Goshen), C. H. Miner, Luther Driscoll and Samuel Parrish.

No trustees were appointed for Elmira and Valley townships, and it is difficult to understand why trustees of school lands were appointed for the Township of Essex, in which the school section had been sold some five years before.

An election was held at the house of Robert Moore, in Osceola Precinct, on January 10, 1838, to vote on the question of incorporating township 14, range 6 (Elmira), for school purposes. Ten votes were cast, all of them in favor of the proposition and Robert Moore, Mathias Sturm, Robert Hall, Thomas Watts, Myrtle G. Brace and James Buswell were elected trustees. Stark County was then a part of Putnam and no report can be found as to the number of schools, if

any, that were conducted in the township. In 1845 a petition from the people of this township was presented to James B. Lewis, school commissioner, asking for the sale of the school lands. The early school records of this township have disappeared and none prior to 1861 can be found. In 1914 the township enumerated 255 persons of school age; possessed school property worth \$10,600, apparatus valued at \$1,680, and employed nine teachers.

The school section in Essex Township was sold in February, 1834, as already stated, and the money applied to the support of the common schools. On June 30, 1840, twenty-three votes were cast in favor of organizing the township for school purposes, but the names of the first trustees cannot be learned. During the school year of 1914-15 Essex enrolled 283 pupils in the ten school districts; the school property, including the south side school building in the City of Wyoming was valued at \$26,750, and the value of apparatus was \$2,275.

The school history of Goshen Township begins with the appointment of Messrs. Miner, Driscoll and Parrish as trustees on April 6, 1839, though subscription schools had no doubt been taught within the township limits prior to that date. On September 5, 1845, a petition signed by seventy-five legal voters asked for the sale of the school section, and the last of the school lands in this township was disposed of in February, 1851. Says Leeson: "One of the first, if not the first schoolhouse in Goshen Township, was that overlooking the Indian camp, two miles from the Harris farm, on the old state road." The first school election was held at the house of Elijah Eltzworth in October, 1840. Luther Driscoll, Charles H. Miner, Jeremiah Bennett, Jacob Emery and Samuel Parrish were chosen trustees and Theodore F. Hurd was elected treasurer. The first act of the new trustees was to divide the township into the Lafayette, Emery, Indian Creek and Fahrenheit school districts. In January, 1841, the people of this township wrote to Col. W. H. Henderson, then a member of the Legislature, asking him to introduce a bill providing for the payment to Stark County of its share of the school fund apportioned to Knox and Putnam counties. The bill was passed in July, 1843. Goshen Township receiving \$60.36. In 1915 the nine districts of Goshen enrolled 245 pupils, the property was valued at \$17,500, and the apparatus at \$1,600.

The first election of trustees in Osceola of which there is any record, was held at the house of John Shaws on May 17, 1845. Fourteen votes were cast and Liberty Stone, Isaac W. Searle and Zebulon Avery were the successful candidates. The same day the township



was divided into three districts. These three districts have since been subdivided until in 1915 there were nine districts, buildings valued at \$10,800, apparatus worth \$1,650, and 392 pupils enrolled.

Penn Township inaugurated its school system as early as 1836, three years before the organization of Stark County, when Wall's schoolhouse was erected in section 7. Subscription schools were taught here at an early date, but the names of the teachers appear to have been forgotten. The township was organized for school purposes in 1845, but the earliest record is that of June, 1846, when an election was held at the house of Lemuel S. Dorrance. Henry Breese, John Todd and Nehemiah Merritt were chosen trustees. In response to a petition, the school lands were sold in 1849-50. The nine districts of Penn Township during the school year of 1914-15 enrolled 286 pupils. Two teachers were employed in the graded school at Castleton and one in each of the other districts. The schoolhouses are valued at \$9,350 and the apparatus at \$1,500.

Valley Township was organized for school purposes on July 17, 1847, when an election was held at the house of David Rouse and Z. G. Bliss. David Rouse and William Cummings were elected trustees. At that time there were but nine families, with forty-one children, living in the township. Four years later there were twenty-seven legal voters, twenty-three of whom signed a petition asking for the sale of the school section. Among the early teachers in this township were P. A. Ferbrache, Ithamer Daybault and Joseph Newton. During the school year of 1914-15, Valley Township enrolled 219 pupils in the eight districts, the schoolhouses were valued at \$8,650 and the apparatus at \$950.

West Jersey Township held an election at the house of Philander Arnold on April 5, 1842, at which twenty-two votes were cast, the decision being unanimous in favor of incorporating the township for school purposes. The township was then divided into two districts. The records prior to 1846 cannot be found. In 1846 C. M. S. Lyon, A. G. Dunn and Washington Trickle were the trustees. D. V. Frazer and A. C. Colwell were among the first teachers in this part of the county. In 1915 there were eight school districts in the township, 220 pupils were enrolled, the schoolhouses were then valued at \$8,200 and the apparatus used in the schools at \$1,700.

Toulon Township, which contains the greater part of the cities of Toulon and Wyoming, may be said to be the educational center of the county, as it is the most centrally located geographically. The first schoolhouse in Toulon—the "Old Brick"—has been described in Chap-



ter VIII, in connection with the City of Toulon. One of the early institutions of learning in the county seat was

#### THE SEMINARY

The first mention of the seminary in the public records of the county was on December 4, 1849, when the county court appointed Samuel G. Wright, Oliver Whitaker and Sammel Beatty a committee to "receive subscriptions and report plans for the building of a female seminary in the Town of Toulon, under the third section of 'An act to authorize the County Commissioners' Court, or the County Court, when organized, to sell lots in the Town of Toulon,' approved February 12, 1849, and report at the March term of this court in 1850."

On March 3, 1850, the committee appointed as above reported that the funds received from the sale of lots were insufficient to build a suitable building for a seminary, and that the people showed an unwillingness to subscribe, unless the seminary could be opened to both sexes. Judge Holgate, of the County Court, then directed the members of the committee to solicit subscriptions with the understanding that boys and girls would both be eligible for admission to the institution.

On September 2, 1850, the county treasurer was ordered to pay to the committee the sum necessary for the purchase of material, but it seems that the work went on too slowly to suit some of the citizens, for on December 6, 1852, Calvin L. Eastman presented a petition to the County Court, the principal features of which were: "That the County Court direct and order the committee having charge of the seminary fund, either in receiving, managing or disbursing it, to report especially upon the following matters:

"1—The total amount of the said fund, principal and interest.

"2—The amount paid in, what they have done about the building, the condition of the work, materials, etc.

"3—The amount outstanding, in whose hands, and when due.

"4—The amount expended and for what, giving the same by items.

"5—Their reasons, if any, for not having discharged the trust committed to them, and

"6—What they propose to do."

After due consideration of the petition, the court ordered "That Oliver Whitaker, Samuel Beatty and Samuel G. Wright, committee to superintend the building of said seminary, be required to report at this term of court upon the foregoing petition, and that the clerk notify them immediately."

The committee came in and reported the expenditure of \$60 for a site for the seminary; \$542.71 for brick, lumber and shingles and for work done; that the total paid out, including a note for \$62.81, was \$665.52, and the amount drawn from the county treasury was \$664.16. After a few more delays the seminary was completed, as the records show that on September 13, 1854, W. W. Webster, John Berfield and L. H. Fitch, of the board of supervisors, were appointed a committee to confer with T. J. Wright, of the building committee, as to the best plan for seating the seminary. The first term opened a few weeks later.

By an act of the General Assembly, approved February 14, 1855, the board of supervisors was authorized to appoint five trustees for the Toulon Seminary. Samuel G. Wright, Oliver Whitaker, Benjamin Turner, John Berfield and Martin Shallenberger were appointed. Under their management, or that of their successors, the seminary continued until September 9, 1861, when it was leased to Davis Lowman, Isaac C. Reed and Warham Mordoff, the school trustees of the Town of Toulon, for a term of five years. By the act of February 18, 1867, the supervisors were authorized to sell the seminary and it became a part of the public school system. It was then used as a sort of high school for some years, when the building was sold and converted into a residence. In the fall of 1915 it was still standing, located on its original site at the northwest corner of Washington and Vine streets, and was then the residence of H. C. Bradley.

#### TOLON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In the fall of 1858 two new school buildings in Toulon were completed. One stood upon what was then called Soap Hill and the other near the northwest corner of the cemetery. The latter was known as the "Fair-ground School." Miss Mary Perry taught the first school in this building, a Mr. Carpenter taught that year in the old brick, and William Campbell was made principal of the seminary. The Soap Hill schoolhouse was afterward sold and converted into a residence.

Toulon in 1915 had two public school buildings—the East Side, or old high school building, and the Township High School in the southeastern part of the city. The site of the former building was selected by vote of the people and the interest in the question was as great as was ever displayed in a presidential election. Several sites were proposed, but when the votes were counted it was found that the one on

the east side of Olive Street, between Vine and Thomas had won, and here a substantial and commodious building was erected. The attendance at the two schools during the school year of 1914-15, according to the county superintendent's report, was 595. Seventeen teachers are employed in the city schools, the value of the buildings is about thirty thousand dollars, and nearly two thousand dollars' worth of apparatus is used in the school rooms. The Township High School was formerly the

#### TOULON ACADEMY

About 1882 some of the citizens of Toulon, desirous of having a school that would offer a course of study not provided by the public schools, conceived the idea of establishing an academy. Among those who were active in the movement were J. F. Rhodes, J. A. Henderson, B. F. Thompson, B. C. Follett, Dr. Theodore Baemeister, W. W. Wright, Mrs. Sarah A. Chamberlain, Andrew Oliver, Samuel Burge, G. W. Dewey and Miles A. Fuller. The institution was opened on October 12, 1883, with J. W. Stephens as principal. After earnest work and the overcoming of many obstacles, sufficient funds were accumulated to erect a handsome building, just outside the city limits at the southeastern part of the town, and here the academy continued its useful work until it was incorporated into the public school system and made the Township High School.

#### WYOMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The early records of the Wyoming schools are not available, hence the city's educational history prior to 1857 is somewhat uncertain. In May, 1857, the district composed of the northeast corner of Essex Township and the southeast corner of Toulon, embracing the Town of Wyoming, was under the charge of the following board of directors: J. B. Brown, William B. Armstrong, Dr. Luther Milliken, Sylvester F. Ottman and Isaac Thomas. A summer school was taught that year by Miss Harriet Milliken and in the fall Enoch K. Evans was engaged to teach the winter school. There was but one school-house at that time and the district was not financially able to build a new one—or at least a majority of the voters so expressed themselves on June 22, 1857, by a vote of twenty to seventeen. Some repairs were made upon the old building, which continued in use for several years before the people could be induced to sanction the erection of a new one.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, WYOMING

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

In September, 1870, the first movement was made toward the building of a modern schoolhouse, adequate to the needs of the town. The plan was to issue bonds to the amount of \$5,000 and levy a tax to create a sinking fund for their payment. The bonds were sold in July, 1871, the people having voted in favor of increasing the indebtedness of the school district to 5 per cent of the assessed valuation. The South Side school opened in the new building in September, 1871, with William Nowlan as principal. He was succeeded in 1873 by W. R. Sandham, in charge of the high school department. In January, 1877, the building was almost completely destroyed by fire, but was immediately rebuilt with the money received from insurance companies. In the spring of 1886 a loan of \$3,000 was authorized for the purpose of making an addition to the building.

The North Side building, which was erected about the same time, is well located for the accommodation of the people living in the northern part of the city. It occupies an elevated site on Madison Street, extending from Seventh Street to Galena Avenue, and when first built had a capacity of over two hundred pupils, although less than that number were enrolled upon the opening of the school in September, with S. S. Wood as principal. The South Side building is situated at the southeast corner of Fifth and Main streets, facing the public square as laid out by General Thomas when he established the original town. The value of the two buildings is approximately twenty thousand dollars. During the school year of 1914-15 eleven teachers were employed and the number of pupils in actual attendance was about four hundred.

#### SCHOOL OFFICERS

When Stark County was organized in 1839, the law of Illinois provided for an official called a school commissioner, whose duty it was to take charge of the public schools of the county, investigate the qualifications of teachers, etc. In 1865 the office of school commissioner was abolished and that of county superintendent of schools created. Following is a list of those who have held these offices in Stark County:

School Commissioners—James Holgate, 1840; Charles H. Miner, 1841; James B. Lewis, 1845; Samuel G. Wright, 1849; R. C. Dunn, 1855; Nelson F. Atkins, 1861 (re-elected in 1863 and died before the expiration of his second term, John W. Agard being appointed to fill the vacancy).

County Superintendents—B. G. Hall, 1865; Alonzo B. Abbott,

1873; Amelia L. Halsey, 1877; William R. Sandham, 1882; George O. Frank, 1898 (resigned and W. R. Sandham appointed for the unexpired term); Mary P. Edmunds, 1902; George C. Baker, 1906 (still serving in 1915).

#### TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

William Nowlan, in a paper read before the Stark County Teachers' Association some years ago, said: "It is not certain when the first institute was held in Stark County, but it was about 1852 or 1853, while S. G. Wright was school commissioner. Rev. A. Lyman, of Geneseo, was the conductor, and Rev. R. C. Dunn afterward stated that it was the first county institute held in the State of Illinois."

Some meetings of the teachers had been held prior to that time, but Mr. Nowlan expressed the opinion that the first regular institute was held in October, 1852. That was the beginning of the institute system that has since been of such great benefit to the teachers in bringing them together for the purpose of getting acquainted and adopting a uniform method of teaching throughout the public schools. In recent years an appropriation is made from the public—a fund to defray the expenses of an institute (by fee of \$1) which lasts for one week or more each year, just before the opening of the schools. The institute for 1915 was held in August, in the East Side school building at Toulon, under the management of George C. Baker, county superintendent. Prof. H. E. Waite, of Princeton, Ill., and Miss Mary L. Robinson, of the Peoria public schools, were the conductors.

#### TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

According to William Nowlan, in the paper above referred to, the Stark County Teachers' Association was first organized in 1858, and was reorganized in October, 1859, by a few teachers who met for that purpose at the house of Rev. R. C. Dunn a short time after the close of the institute for that year. Then began a propaganda, which resulted in a majority of the regular teachers of the county becoming members of the association. Through this association fraternal relations have been kept up among the teachers, the meetings being less formal than those of the county institute, each member feeling perfectly free to express his views or to criticize those of his fellow teachers.

W. R. Sandham, of Wyoming, still has in his possession the paper read before the association by Mr. Nowlan, in which is related a num-



ber of amusing incidents that show the character of the early schools. One of these incidents tells how a boy of some fourteen years of age was discovered "doing sums" in compound numbers, whereupon the teacher, a young lady of slight experience and limited education, sent word home that the boy need not bring his arithmetic to school any more, because she had "never been any farther than long division and had not been employed to teach arithmetic, any how."

Another incident told by Mr. Nowlan is of a reading contest at one of the meetings of the association. C. J. Gill, commonly called "Jud" Gill, won the prize, reading the poem of the Spider and the Fly, illustrating the actions of the insects by what he supposed were appropriate gestures. At the close of the reading Rev. G. A. Leaver "asked for information" if "Jud's" rendition of the poem was an elocutionary or a gymnastic exercise.

From this it will be seen that the teachers were not too dignified to enjoy a little levity now and then in their sessions. The association organized more than half a century ago is still kept up, regular meetings of two days being held in the winter or spring every year, the teachers being paid by the county the regular two days' wages for attending the association meetings.

#### THE PRESS

The newspaper is unquestionably an important factor in the educational development of the nation. Through the dissemination of general news the people are kept in touch with the world's progress, and by the publication of special articles on scientific, industrial, economic or domestic subjects every household is more or less benefited. It is therefore considered appropriate to include in this chapter some account of the newspapers of Stark County—past and present.

Dr. Franklin W. Scott, of the University of Illinois, in 1910 compiled a list of the newspapers of Illinois by counties, which list was published in the Historical Collections for that year. He states that the first newspaper ever published in the state was the Illinois Herald, the first number of which was issued at Kaskaskia in May, 1814, by Matthew Duncan "Printer to the territory and publisher of the laws of the Union." The oldest number of this paper in existence is No. 30, dated Wednesday, December 13, 1814. Mr. Duncan was a Kentuckian by birth, a brother of Governor Joseph Duncan and a graduate of Yale College. He served in the Black Hawk war and died at Shelbyville, Ill., January 16, 1844. He was the pioneer journalist of Illinois.

The first newspaper in Stark County was the *Prairie Advocate*, the first number of which appeared on January 4, 1856, bearing the names of John G. Hewitt as editor and John Smith, printer and publisher. Prior to that time Mr. Smith had been conducting a newspaper at Pekin. Mr. Hewitt interested a number of the Toulon citizens, raised a bonus of \$300, with which he went to Pekin and induced Smith to remove to Stark County. The old style type used in the production of that first number of the *Prairie Advocate* could hardly find a place in a newspaper office of the present day, and the press upon which it was printed is said to have been the third printing press ever brought into the state. After a few months Smith sold his interest to Hewitt, who continued the publication of the paper until 1857, when he sold to Rev. R. C. Dunn, who changed the name to the *Stark County News*.

After a few months Mr. Dunn sold the *News* to Whitaker & Henderson, who placed Dr. S. S. Kaysbier in charge as editor. About the close of the year 1860 the paper suspended publication, but in the fall of 1861 it was revived by W. H. Butler, who named it the *Stark County Union*. Mr. Butler undertook to run a paper of strong union sentiment, but without being partisan. The result was the *Union* was short-lived.

In the spring of 1863 the *Stark County News* was resumed by Dr. S. S. Kaysbier, who in January, 1864, associated with him Oliver White. In July of that year Mr. White purchased his partner's interest, becoming sole proprietor. A half interest was sold to Joseph Smethurst in the fall of 1868 and the next spring Mr. White sold his interest to Edwin Butler. Several minor changes in ownership and management then followed until it passed into the hands of Charles T. Henderson. In October, 1897, the *News* was purchased by Charles E. Nixon, of Peoria, and James A. Nowlan, the latter becoming sole owner and proprietor by the purchase of Mr. Nixon's interest in 1904. In January, 1915, Mr. Nowlan purchased the *Galva Standard*, and about the first of November following bought the *Galva News*, consolidating the two papers, which after January 1, 1916, were published under the name of the *Galva News*. He is still the owner of the *Stark County News*, however, which paper receives his personal attention.

While the political campaign of 1860 was in progress, some of the democrats of Stark County keenly felt the need of a party organ. Accordingly a meeting of the Douglas Club on July 6, 1860, started the preliminary steps toward the publication of the *Stark County*

Democrat. A stock company was organized, with the understanding that if the paper should become self-supporting the remainder of the stock should be paid in and used for printing and distributing Douglas literature. The subscription price was fixed at 50 cents for the campaign. The first number of the Democrat made its appearance on July 19, 1860, with the following editorial staff: Martin Shallenberger, chief; G. A. Clifford, W. H. Butler, Charles Myers, Benjamin Williams, J. H. Anthony, J. B. Russell, W. D. Hicks and Thomas Ross, assistants. This was rather an imposing array of editorial talent for a small town like Toulon, but it must be remembered that none of the editors drew a salary, donating their services "for the good of the cause."

The paper was printed in Kewanee and in the issue of November 3, 1860, appeared the following notice: "PAY UP! We shall publish one more number of this paper, giving the full election returns throughout the United States, when the Democrat will no longer be published. We expect every man who is in arrears will pay up now." The Democrat was 13 by 19 inches in size and contained very little except politics, the principal aim of the paper being to keep the democratic party supplied with ammunition until the election.

Seth F. Rockwell began the publication of another Stark County Democrat on August 2, 1867, with Martin Shallenberger as political editor. It appeared regularly until Christmas day, when the publisher announced that it would be suspended until after the holidays. The next number was issued on January 8, 1868. Mr. Rockwell retired in August of that year and the paper came under the editorial management of Mr. Shallenberger and Benjamin W. Seaton, who in November changed the name to the *Prairie Chief*. The paper was owned by a company composed of Benjamin Turner, Patrick Nowlan, James Nowlan, Martin Shallenberger and Branson Lowman, who bought from John Smith the press that had been used in the publication of the first Stark County News in 1856. In 1869 Mr. Seaton purchased the outfit and continued the publication of the *Chief* until the spring of 1872, when he sold to Dr. Henry M. Hall. He changed the name to the *New Era* and published until January, 1876, when he removed to Red Oak, Iowa, and Stark County was without a democratic paper.

The Stark County Sentinel, another Toulon newspaper that acquired some prominence, was first issued on October 8, 1880, by W. E. Nixon and Thomas H. Blair. On the last day of April, 1881, J. Knox Hall succeeded Mr. Blair, and in May, 1882, Mr. Hall became sole owner. On January 1, 1884, Gus Hulsizer purchased an interest, but

the partnership between Hall and Hulsizer was dissolved on February 13, 1885, the former retiring from the paper. Under the management of Mr. Hulsizer the Sentinel became a strong advocate of prohibition, which policy was followed until circumstances forced it to suspend.

Wyoming's first newspaper was started in 1872, when E. H. Phelps, at the earnest solicitation of some of the citizens of the town, began the publication of the Post-Chronicle. The name was adopted by reason of the fact that the Bradford Chronicle, which had been started a few months before, had already acquired some circulation in the eastern townships and it was consolidated with the Wyoming Post, the name selected by Mr. Phelps for his paper. The first number of the Post-Chronicle was issued on August 9, 1872. A few months later the latter part of the name was dropped and the paper continued under the name of the Wyoming Post.

In 1876 Phelps sold out to J. D. Gilchrist, who conducted the paper until some time in 1879, when it was purchased by Craddock & Vosburg. In 1885 this firm was succeeded by W. R. Sandham. Connected with this paper was one of those newspaper controversies that frequently occur over the question of "good will" and the exclusive right to a certain territory. It is said that when Mr. Phelps sold out to Gilchrist he agreed not to publish a paper in Stark County for five years. On July 2, 1880, he issued the first number of the Toulon Herald, but early in 1881 removed the office of publication to Wyoming. Mr. Sandham went into court and asked for an injunction against the publication of the Herald, but finally solved the problem by purchasing that paper and consolidating it with his own under the name of the Wyoming Post-Herald.

W. E. Nixon and J. M. Newton purchased the Post-Herald in 1889 and conducted it until August, 1895, when Mr. Nixon became sole owner. In 1902 Mr. Nixon was elected county clerk and on January 1, 1904, he sold a half interest to Harrison Thomas. A little later William G. and Gladstone Moore purchased the entire outfit and continued the publication of the paper under the firm name of Moore & Son. In November, 1914, the Post-Herald was bought by Scott Brothers, the present proprietors.

The Bradford Chronicle above mentioned was founded by B. F. Thompson, editor, E. H. Edwards, publisher, in the fall of 1871. It was printed at Princeton until it was consolidated with the Wyoming Post in August, 1872. The Bradford Times was first issued on Christmas day in 1880, with F. N. Prout as editor. It was not printed

in the village. The first newspaper to be printed in Bradford was the Bradford Independent, the first number of which was issued on June 4, 1885, by C. F. Hamilton and J. C. Blaisdell. On June 1, 1886, Mr. Blaisdell retired, leaving Mr. Hamilton sole owner. Subsequently Mr. Blaisdell established the Bradford Republican, which he sold to R. L. Breen, the present editor and publisher, in the spring of 1907.

#### EXTINCT NEWSPAPERS

Several of the newspapers above enumerated passed out of existence after a short time, and there were some other ventures in journalism that failed "for want of adequate support." One of the earliest of these evanescent publications was the Ku Klux Bulletin, which first made its appearance on May 7, 1869, with the motto "Chide mildly the erring." The editorial staff was announced as "White Alligator," "Rattling Skeleton" and "Grand Cyclops," supposed to have been Charles W. Wright, Albinus Nance (afterward governor of Nebraska) and Thomas Shallenberger. The Bulletin was published at Toulon and in the salutatory its principles were set forth as follows:

"Our Bulletin is not a religious paper. Others may prate of the orthodox, the martyrs and the clergy; of the peace and happiness of religion, and spiritual comfort; but we prefer to deal with the human creatures about us. We do not confine ourselves to any sect or creed; we are on the side of reform, and our field of labor is as broad as the universe. Toulon needs reorganizing and we attempt to reorganize her. Let us hope that we may meet with better success than Artemus Ward, when he attempted to reorganize Betsy Jane."

But the Grand Cyclops and his editorial associates found the work of reorganization a difficult task and after publishing the Bulletin for a short time let it die a natural death.

In 1876 Oliver White commenced the publication of the tri-weekly newspaper to which he gave the name of Molly Stark. Mr. White's notion of a newspaper was to avoid "boiler plate," or "patent insides," and publish paragraphs of local interest or articles giving the pith of the latest news. The Molly Stark was unflinchingly republican in its political views and its mission seemed to be the election of James G. Blaine to the Presidency. Bill Nye, the humorist, used to tell of a printer who went bankrupt trying to run a nonpareil newspaper in a long primer town. Mr. White had a similar experience with a tri-weekly paper in Toulon. Although he did not become bankrupt, he found the Molly Stark an unprofitable enterprise and discontinued its publication.

The Stark County Bee was started at Wyoming, contemporaneously with the Molly Stark, by M. M. Monteith. It was published as an independent paper, though it was noticed that its leanings were strongly toward the republican party. Such a policy alienated the democrats, while the republicans wanted a paper more pronounced in principle, hence, as one old resident of Wyoming expresses it, "the Bee soon ceased to buzz."

Another tri-weekly paper was the Call, published by Nixon Brothers at Toulon. The first number bore the date of March 20, 1883, and after a few issues was published semi-weekly. The last number of the Call was issued on August 16, 1883.

In October, 1883, S. A. Miller began the publication of the Lafayette Annex. The name was changed to the Lafayette Sentinel in June, 1884, but Mr. Miller learned that a change of name did not enlarge the field for his paper and a little later the Sentinel succumbed to the inevitable.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Col. Robert G. Ingersoll once said: "A house with a library in it has a soul." The same thing might be appropriately said of a town or city. The public library has been one of the most potent agencies in recent years in furnishing many people with the means of acquiring information upon a multitude of subjects—information they might never have gained through other channels. The people of Stark County apparently recognize the importance of the public library as an educational factor, as there are four libraries maintained at public expense, viz: Toulon, Wyoming, Bradford and Lafayette.

The first mention of a library in the official records of the county was on July 16, 1851, when the County Court ordered that George A. Clifford be permitted to use the room in the courthouse "at present occupied by the Toulon Social Library, provided that an arrangement can be effected with those interested in said library, if not the said Clifford shall be permitted to use either of the jury rooms during the vacation of the Circuit Court, upon payment of \$1 per month."

The Toulon Social Library was not a public library, but was a small society, the members of which contributed a certain sum annually for books to be circulated among themselves, or rented to others for a small weekly fee.

Wyoming was the pioneer in the movement to establish a public library. About the year 1890, while yet a village, some of the people inaugurated a movement for the establishment of a public library, by



inducing the village trustees to call an election to vote on the proposition to establish such an institution. A majority of the votes were opposed to the measure and the subject was dropped.

In the early part of 1907 the Tuesday Club, at several of its meetings discussed the subject of a public library, the discussions finally culminating in the appointment of Albert W. King and Rev. William Moore a committee to present the matter to the city council. They personally appeared before the council, but the time was apparently inopportune. The councilmen listened attentively to the committee, but declined to act. The Tuesday Club, however, continued the agitation and on October 29, 1907, Mrs. Harry A. Hammond, Mrs. William Holgate and Mrs. William H. Hewitt were appointed a committee to investigate the practicability and suggest a plan for the establishment of a public reading room, as a sort of forerunner of a public library.

The committee held several meetings, but nothing was accomplished until December, 1908, when a reading room was opened in the basement of the Scott, Walters & Rakestraw bank building. The reading room was supported by subscriptions and it was hoped interest enough would be aroused to lead to the establishment of a public library. But after a few months the reading room was discontinued, chiefly for lack of suitable quarters. The library question, like Banquo's ghost, would not down, and during the next three years it was repeatedly discussed at the meetings of the Tuesday Club and in the columns of the Post-Herald. In 1912 the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Ladies' League of the Catholic Church, the Merry Makers' Club and the Birthday Club all became interested in the subject and with the Tuesday Club joined in the formation of the Wyoming Woman's Library Association, with Mrs. Eliza Steer as president and Mrs. Nellie K. Reeder, secretary and treasurer.

Work now began in earnest and the campaign resulted in the passage of an ordinance by the city council on July 7, 1913, "to establish a free public library in accordance with the library law of the State of Illinois." A little later the following library board was appointed: William R. Sandham, president; Mrs. Eliza Steer, vice president; Mrs. Nellie K. Reeder, secretary; Frank Jacobs, William J. Forster, Odillon B. Slane, Abner C. Cooper, Mrs. Cecelia B. Colwell and Mrs. Augustine Ryan. This board on August 18, 1913, applied to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for assistance in erecting a suitable building for a public library and on November 9, 1913, came a reply that the sum of \$5,600 would be donated for a building in Wyo-



ming, provided the city would furnish a suitable site. Then commenced the campaign to procure a site, which culminated on February 24, 1914, by the city voting to issue bonds to the amount of \$1,500 for the purchase of a lot. The site selected was owned by a number of heirs and it was not until July 10, 1914, that the deeds were all signed and the city came into possession.

The plans submitted by Reeves & Bailie, architects of Peoria, were approved by the Carnegie Corporation and on July 18, 1914, the contract for the building was awarded to F. L. Boher, of Abingdon, Ill. The heating plant and the plumbing were installed by Brown & Upberman, of Wyoming. The building is of hollow tile, veneered with a hard mat brick, roof of black Bangor slate, and consists of the main floor and basement. It is 27 by 63 feet in size, the library occupying the main floor, while the basement contains an assembly room, store room, space for the heating plant, toilet rooms, etc. It was opened to the public on April 1, 1915. The total cost of the building, including the heating plant and plumbing, was \$6,075, and up to April 1, 1915, the Woman's Library Association had raised \$1,140 for the benefit of the institution.

The library board on October 1, 1915, was composed of A. C. Cooper, president; Mrs. Nellie K. Reeder, secretary; C. A. Smith, A. W. King, J. W. Walters, Miss Mary Colgan, Mrs. Hepsey Earhart and Mrs. Bessie M. Strattan. The first librarian, Mrs. Augustine Ryan, resigned on August 1, 1915, and Miss Mary W. Townsend was appointed. The library now contains about twelve hundred volumes. It is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. The amount of tax levied for its support in 1914 was \$534.06 and for 1915 it was \$700.

The Toulon Public Library dates its beginning from January 29, 1891, when James H. Miller and B. F. Thompson filed a petition with the village clerk, George S. Walker, asking the town board to levy a tax in accordance with the state law for the support of a public library. That petition was signed by sixty legal voters and at the town election, April 21, 1891, the proposition to levy the library tax was carried by a good majority.

Nothing further was done toward the actual establishment of the library until April 19, 1892, when a board of six directors was elected, to-wit: B. F. Thompson and Gus Hulsizer, for three years; W. W. Wright and U. J. Overman, for two years; Martin Shallenberger and Theodore Baemeister, for one year. In July, 1892, the first year's tax was paid in and found to net \$314.21. The directors considered

this amount too small to do much toward establishing a library and again there was a delay of several months.

At a meeting held in the office of Dr. Theodore Baemeister on February 2, 1893, Mr. Thompson was elected president of the board of directors, and Doctor Baemeister was chosen secretary. Messrs. Hulsizer, Baemeister and Shallenberger were appointed a committee to draft rules and regulations for the government of the library. Another meeting was held on March 2, 1893, when Messrs. Baemeister, Hulsizer and Overman were appointed a committee to look for a location and report at the next meeting. The committee reported that suitable rooms could be secured in William Caverly's new block at a rental of \$4 per month, and Mr. Hulsizer offered to donate his services as librarian and to keep the library open three evenings each week.

So far everything had worked well, but it was impossible to open a library without books. At a meeting on March 30, 1893, Mr. Caverly's offer was accepted, a list of books was decided on, and on April 7, 1893, Mr. Overman went to Chicago to purchase the books selected. They arrived a few days later and the Toulon Public Library was opened on the evening of the 18th, at which time Mr. Overman reported that the amount expended for books was \$344.38; his personal expenses, \$11.75, and freight on the books, \$3.65, making a total of \$359.78.

The library remained in the Caverly Building until April 11, 1898, when it was voted to remove to B. F. Thompson's new brick block on the west side of the public square. When the library went into its new quarters Miss Pauline Nowlan succeeded Mr. Hulsizer as librarian. She was in turn succeeded by Martha E. Cree, under whose administration the library was removed to the second floor of Dr. E. B. Packer's building on West Main Street. In April, 1911, Miss Harriet J. Byatt, the present librarian, succeeded Miss Cree.

Early in the summer of 1914 the library board wrote to the Carnegie Corporation, of New York City, explaining the needs of the Toulon library, and asking for a donation for the purpose of erecting a suitable building for the library's home. In August the board received the pleasing information that the corporation would give \$6,000 and preparations were immediately commenced for the erection of the building. The first thing necessary was to obtain a site. After some "pulling and hauling" Percy Shallenberger offered to donate the lot at the southwest corner of Jefferson and Henderson streets and give \$500 to defray the expenses of grading and beautifying the

grounds. The offer was accepted and the contract for the erection of the building was let to F. L. Boher, the same man who erected the library building at Wyoming.

The \$6,000 given by the Carnegie Corporation was all used in paying for the building and the furniture and fixtures, which cost \$900 more, were paid for out of a fund raised by popular subscription. The building was opened to the public on September 7, 1915. At that time there were about two thousand volumes in the library, which is kept open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. The amount of tax collected in 1914 for the support of the library was \$563.12.

In October, 1915, the library board was composed of F. J. Rhodes, Elmer H. Buffum, Dr. Clyde Berfield, George S. Walker, Walter F. Young, Fred Miller, Mrs. L. T. Jackson, Mrs. Florence Kinney and Miss Ellen Silliman. Mr. Rhodes was president of the board and Miss Silliman, secretary.

The Ira C. Reed Public Library, of Lafayette, had its origin in a collection of books that Mrs. Ira C. Reed placed upon the shelves of the two-story brick building erected for her own residence in 1897. For about nine years those books were loaned through the library association which was formed for that purpose. At the death of Mrs. Reed the books and building passed by bequest to the Village of Lafayette, but at the request of the trustees continued under the control of the original association for about two years longer.

In the spring of 1909, T. D. Church circulated a petition asking the village government to levy a tax for the library's support, in accordance with the state law. A 2-mill tax was accordingly levied and the Ira C. Reed Public Library became really a public institution. The next move was to hold a special election to select the members of a board to control the affairs of the library.

Prior to 1907 the library was kept open somewhat irregularly, as there was no regular librarian much of the time to look after its management. Miss Lydia Hamilton and other public spirited young people took turns in acting as librarian, but in 1907 Miss Olive Hayes was employed to attend to the needs of the library and lend books two afternoons and evenings in each week.

In 1911 the board of trustees organized the library according to law, by introducing the proper records, etc., and Miss May C. Smith succeeded Miss Hayes as librarian. The reading room, which has proven to be a popular adjunct to the library, was opened in 1912, and in 1914 a "rental shelf" was added at the request of some of the

patrons. Upon this shelf will be found some of the latest works of fiction, for which a small fee is charged.

The library board in October, 1915, was composed of Miss May C. Smith, who is president, Miss Julia Snyder, Mrs. Agnes Hoadley, C. G. Reed, A. L. Dickerson and Rev. T. O. Lee. Mrs. Hoadley is clerk of the board. Regular meetings are held monthly.

The amount of tax collected in 1914 for the support of the library was \$110.77. There is also the interest on a small endowment of \$700 and some additional income from the Reed estate. On June 1, 1915, the library numbered 1,086 volumes, quite a number of which were given by public spirited citizens. The library also has a large collection of fossils, minerals, etc., the gift of Jesse Atherton.

In the early part of the year 1902, twelve young ladies of Bradford, all members of the same club, conceived the idea of a public library. After formulating a plan they succeeded in interesting several of the leading citizens, with the result that the following library board was elected: Cyrus Boeock, president; Mrs. H. R. Mayhew, secretary; Mrs. Streeter, Mrs. Doctor Boardman, D. J. Owens and Doctor Minnick.

Next came the problem of finances. The young ladies who first proposed a library went to work with a will to make articles of all kinds to be sold at a bazaar, and by this means they raised \$125. Eight hundred dollars more were added to the fund through subscriptions on the part of the townspeople, and with this fund the first books were purchased. Quite a number of books were donated by generously inclined people, and the Bradford Public Library began to show evidences that it had "come to stay." The library was first opened on Saturday, August 16, 1902, with Mrs. Streeter as librarian, in the hall formerly occupied by the Odd Fellows' lodge.

For about three years the Bradford Library Association continued in charge, the young ladies who first projected the enterprise giving bazaars for the sale of bric-brac and articles of cookery, producing "home talent" plays, etc., the proceeds going to the library fund. In June, 1905, the people of the village voted to levy a tax for the support of the library, and it became the property of the village. The amount of the library tax collected in 1914 was \$337.30. The members of the board in October, 1915, were: J. H. Scholes, president; Mrs. G. A. Marsh, secretary; J. A. McGifford, Mrs. Elizabeth Rennie, Mrs. John Trimmer and Mrs. Bert Deyo. Mrs. Mary L. Gerard was then librarian. The Bradford library is kept open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings and Saturday afternoon of each

week. About one thousand volumes are on the shelves and a number of periodicals are to be found on the tables in the reading room. The Woman's League, composed of fifty of the representative women of the town, have recently started a movement for the erection of a library building.

The Elmira Library Association was organized at the village schoolhouse on January 18, 1856, with Adam Oliver as president and William Moffitt, secretary. Each member of the association paid certain dues each year and was entitled to draw books from the library. This library has never been made a public library, but is for the exclusive use of the members of the association.

In every school district of the county there are a number of books for the use of the pupils. The volumes are generally of a historical or scientific character, books of travel, etc., calculated to be of assistance to the scholars in their school work. The number of volumes in these school libraries at the close of the school year in 1915 was 8,626.

## CHAPTER XIII

### THE BENCH AND BAR

PURPOSE OF THE COURTS—THE LAWYER AS A CITIZEN—EARLY COURTS OF STARK COUNTY—FIRST JURORS—SKETCHES OF EARLY JUDGES—LIST OF CIRCUIT JUDGES SINCE 1839—CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING COURTS—PROBATE COURT—COUNTY COURT AND JUDGES—STATE'S ATTORNEYS—UNITED STATES COURTS—THE BAR—CONDITIONS OF EARLY DAYS—SKETCHES OF OLD-TIME LAWYERS—THE BAR OF 1915—CRIMINAL CASES—A STRAY INCIDENT.

In the very dawn of civilization the legislator and the lawyer made their appearance and much of the history of every civilized country or community centers about the laws and the manner in which they are enforced. "To establish justice" was written into the Federal Constitution by the founders of the American Republic as one of the primary and paramount purposes of government. The founders of that republic also showed their wisdom in separating the functions of the government into three departments—the legislative, the executive and the judicial—the first to enact, the second to execute, and the third to interpret the nation's laws. States have copied this system, so that in every state there are a Legislature to pass laws, a supreme and subordinate courts to interpret them and a governor as the chief executive officer to see that they are fairly and impartially enforced.

The law is a jealous profession. It demands of the judge on the bench and the attorney at the bar alike a careful, conscientious effort to secure the administration of justice—"speedy and substantial, efficient, equitable and economical." Within recent years there have been some rather caustic criticisms of the courts for their delays, and a great deal has been said in the columns of the public press about the need of "judicial reform." Concerning the tendency to criticize the courts, one of the justices of the Ohio Supreme Court recently said:

"A reasonable amount of criticism is good for a public officer—even a judge. It keeps reminding him that, after all, he is only a public servant; that he must give an account of his stewardship, as to

his efficiency, the same as any other servant; that the same tests applied to private servants in private business should be applied to public servants in public business, whether executives, legislators or judges—at least that is the public view. Would it not be more wholesome if more public officers, especially judges, took the same view?"

Perhaps some of the criticisms have been made for good cause, but unfortunately many have condemned the entire judiciary system because some judge has failed to measure up to the proper standard, and the entire legal profession has been denounced as one of trickery because some lawyer has adopted the tactics of the pettifogger. It should not be forgotten, in exercising the right of free press or free speech, that some of the greatest men in our national history were lawyers. John Marshall, one of the early chief justices of the United States Supreme Court, was a man whose memory is revered by the American people and his legal opinions are still quoted with confidence and respect by his profession. Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe, who negotiated the Louisiana Purchase and gave to their country an empire in extent, were all lawyers. Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Salmon P. Chase, Stephen A. Douglas, Thomas M. Cooley and a host of other eminent Americans wrote their names permanently upon history's pages through their knowledge and interpretation of the laws, and all were men whose patriotism and love of justice were unquestioned. And last, but not least, was Abraham Lincoln, self-educated and self-reliant, whose consummate tact and statesmanship saved the Union from disruption.

#### THE CIRCUIT COURT

The first session of the Stark County Circuit Court was held at the house of William H. Henderson, about one mile south of the present county seat, beginning on October 11, 1839. Judge Thomas Ford presided, Augustus A. Dunn was sheriff, John W. Henderson, who was not quite twenty-one years of age, was appointed clerk for the occasion, and Norman J. Purple appeared as state's attorney. In anticipation of the session, the county commissioners, on June 5, 1839, had selected the following citizens to serve as grand jurors: M. G. Brace, Asa Currier, Henry Seely, Joseph Avery, Moses Boardman, Henry Breese, Samuel Love, Samuel Seely, Nero Mounts, Howard Ogle, John Finley, William Porter, Sumner Shaw, Nehemiah Wycoff, Luther Driscoll, Conrad Emery, John Hester, David Simmerman, Nathaniel Swarts, Israel Dawson, Adam Day, Adam Perry and William Mahaney.



The petit jurors, selected at the same time, were: Robert Sharer, Nicholas Sturm, Isaac Spencer, James Buswell, Horace Vail, Nehemiah Merritt, Christopher Sammis, Thomas Timmonds, Washington Trickle, Thomas S. Clark, George Eckley, Jacob Smith, Washington Colwell, Samuel Harris, Calvin Powell, Sr., Elijah Eltzroth, Daniel Hodgson, Henry McClenahan, Milton Richards, Jeremiah Bennett, Minott Silliman, William Bowen, David Cooper and Josiah Moffit.

From each of these lists were to be selected "twelve good men and true," to perform the duties of jurors as required by law. Some of those summoned as grand jurors failed to appear and the court ordered the sheriff to summon two others from the bystanders. James McClenahan and William W. Drummond were chosen, Luther Driscoll was appointed foreman, and the grand jury retired to a corn crib to hear and determine such business as might come before it. Gen. Thomas J. Henderson, in an address before the Old Settlers' Association some years afterward, said:

"I can hardly remember where these juries met, but think one of them at least occupied a log crib or stable belonging to my father: however, I do well recall that the first lessons in jurisprudence which I received were taken in a board loft, looking down through the cracks, upon that most dignified tribunal, the first Circuit Court of Stark County."

Judge Thomas Ford, who presided at that term of court, was born in the State of Pennsylvania in the year 1800. When but four years old he was taken by his widowed mother to Missouri, where the family lived but a short time, when they removed to Illinois. He was given a good education, studied law, and before being elevated to the bench served as state's attorney. Mrs. Shallenberger describes him as "a man thoroughly respected by all classes of the community, both for the evenhanded justice he dispensed from the bench and the stainless integrity that ever characterized him as a politician." Under the constitution of 1818, the Legislature appointed the judges of the circuit courts, consequently Judge Ford held his office by legislative appointment. After serving on the bench until August, 1842, he resigned to become a candidate for governor of Illinois, having been nominated for that high office by the democratic party. He was elected governor in the fall of that year and at the conclusion of his term devoted some time to writing a history of the state, which was published in 1847. His death occurred in 1850.

On August 20, 1842, immediately after the resignation of Judge Ford, John Dean Caton was appointed judge of the old Ninth Judicial

Circuit, of which Stark County formed a part. The circuit, at the time of Judge Caton's appointment, was composed of the counties of Peoria, Marshall, Putnam, La Salle, Kendall, De Kalb, Kane, Ogle, Bureau and Stark, a territory of over five thousand square miles. Judge Caton was a man of fair legal attainments, though it has been said that "his strict adherence to the dogmas of the democratic party sometimes blinded his sense of justice. One of the duties of the circuit judge of that period was the appointment of a clerk of the Circuit Court. In Stark County there arose a spirited contest between John W. Henderson and Oliver Whitaker for the office. The latter, being a democrat, received the appointment, which caused Judge Caton to be criticized by some of Henderson's friends, though after the clerk's office was made elective, Mr. Whitaker was chosen by the people and held the position for several years.

Following Judge Caton came Judge Koerner, who remained on the bench until the adoption of the constitution of 1848, by which the circuit judges were made elective by the people. Under the new constitution Stark County was placed in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, of which T. L. Dickey, of Peoria, was elected judge. He was a lawyer of more than ordinary ability, a good judge, and many regretted the change which placed Stark County in the Tenth Circuit, throwing Judge Dickey into another district.

H. M. Wead was elected the first judge of the Tenth Circuit, but for some reason failed to qualify and William Kellogg was appointed to the vacancy. Judge Kellogg was one of the leading lawyers of this section of the state prior to his elevation to the bench. In 1850 he was elected for a second term and served until another change in the judicial districts placed Stark County in the Sixteenth Circuit in 1853. After retiring from the bench Judge Kellogg was elected to Congress. He then resumed the practice of law in Peoria, where he died some years later.

Onslow Peters was elected judge of the Sixteenth Circuit in March, 1853. He was a native of Massachusetts, studied law in his native state, came to Peoria, where he built up a lucrative practice and won the reputation of being an able and successful attorney. He was a lawyer of the old school, scholarly, courteous and dignified, and well liked by everybody with whom he came in contact. His death occurred at Washington, D. C., in February, 1856.

In April, 1856, following the death of Judge Peters, Jacob Gale was elected judge of the Sixteenth Circuit, but, like Judge Wead, he declined to serve. Elihu N. Powell was appointed and at the expira-

tion of the term he was elected to the office and continued on the bench until 1861. Before becoming judge he was engaged in the practice of law at Peoria, and upon retiring from the office resumed his practice in that city. He died there on July 15, 1871.

Amos L. Merriman was elected circuit judge in 1861, defeating Judge Powell. Prior to that time he had been associated with his brother, H. O. Merriman, in the practice of law at Peoria and the firm of Merriman & Merriman had an enviable reputation throughout a large portion of the Illinois Valley. He resigned in 1863, a short time before the expiration of the term for which he was elected, and removed to Washington, D. C.

In November, 1863, Marion Williamson was elected circuit judge, his opponent having been Martin Shallenberger, of Stark County. Judge Williamson was a native of Adams County, Ohio, but came to Peoria soon after his admission to the bar and rose rapidly in his profession. He continued on the bench until 1867 and his decisions were noted for their simplicity of language and clear statements of the law. His death occurred at Peoria in 1868.

Sabin D. Puterbaugh was elected in 1867 to succeed Judge Williamson and continued on the bench until the adoption of the new State Constitution of 1870. He was the author of a work on "Pleading and Practice," which has been widely used in the courts of Illinois and is recognized as an authority on those branches of law.

Article VI, section 13, of the Constitution of 1870, provides that "The state, exclusive of Cook County and other counties having a population of 100,000, shall be divided into judicial circuits, prior to the expiration of the terms of office of the present judges of the circuit courts. Such circuits shall be formed of contiguous counties, in as nearly compact form and as nearly equal as circumstances will permit, having due regard to business, territory and population, and shall not exceed in number one circuit for every 100,000 population in the state."

It was also provided in the constitution that the first election of judges under the new regime should occur on "the first Monday in June, 1873, and each six years thereafter."

Pursuant to these constitutional provisions, the General Assembly passed an act, approved March 28, 1873, dividing the state into judicial districts, the counties of Peoria and Stark constituting the Ninth Circuit. At the election on the first Monday in June, 1873, Sabin D. Puterbaugh, John Burns and Joseph W. Cochran were elected judges, each district being entitled to three. Judge Puter-

baugh resigned soon after his election and was succeeded by Henry B. Hopkins, of Peoria.

David McCulloch succeeded Judge Cochran in August, 1877, and in 1879 the judges elected were John Burns, David McCulloch and Milton M. Laws. In the meantime a change had been made in the circuit, the counties of Putnam, Marshall, Woodford, Tazewell, Peoria and Stark constituting the Eighth Judicial Circuit under the provisions of the act of June 2, 1877.

In 1885 there was a complete change in the judges of the Eighth Circuit, Thomas M. Shaw, Nathan W. Green and Samuel S. Page being elected. Judge Page retired and on April 5, 1890, L. W. James was appointed to fill out the unexpired term. The judges elected in 1891 were: Nathan W. Green, Thomas M. Shaw and Nicholas E. Worthington.

Another change in the judicial districts was made by the act of April 23, 1897, which placed the counties of Peoria, Marshall, Putnam, Stark and Tazewell in the Tenth Circuit, Woodford County being added to the Eleventh. Under the new law the following judges were elected for the Tenth Circuit on the first Monday in June, 1897: Thomas M. Shaw, of Lacon; Leslie D. Puterbaugh and Nicholas E. Worthington, of Peoria. Judge Shaw died before the expiration of his term and on September 3, 1901, Theodore N. Green, of Peoria, was elected at a special election to the vacancy. All three of these judges—Puterbaugh, Green and Worthington—were reelected in 1903 and again in 1909.

Judge Puterbaugh resigned in October, 1913, to become a candidate for judge of the Supreme Court of Illinois, and John M. Niehaus was elected for the remainder of the term. In June, 1915, the present judges of the Circuit Court—John M. Niehaus, Theodore N. Green and Clyde E. Stone—were elected.

Such in brief has been the history and personnel of the Circuit Court since the organization of Stark County in 1839. And though none of the men who have presided over the Stark Circuit Court has been a judge of "national reputation," most of them have been capable, conscientious judges, discharging their official duties with due regard to the dignity of their office, the rights of litigants and the general welfare of the community.

#### PROBATE COURT

The Constitution of 1818, under which Illinois was admitted to statehood, provided for an official known as the probate justice in each

county. John Miller was elected probate justice of Stark County on August 5, 1839, the first man to hold that official position in the county. He was succeeded in 1843 by Jonathan Hodgson, who served until 1847, when he in turn was succeeded by S. W. Eastman. The last probate justice in the county was Harvey J. Rhodes, who was elected in April, 1849, to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Eastman. He served but a short time, when the office was abolished by law. The probate justice was not required to have a profound knowledge of the law, his business, as the name indicates, being merely to act in matters of a probate nature, such as the settlement of estates, etc.

#### COUNTY COURT

Article VI, section 18, of the Constitution of 1870, provides that "There shall be elected in and for each county, one county judge and one clerk of the county court, whose terms of office shall be four years. \* \* \* County courts shall be courts of record, and shall have original jurisdiction in all matters of probate, settlement of estates of deceased persons, appointment of guardians and conservators, and settlement of their accounts, in all matters pertaining to apprentices, and in proceedings for the collection of taxes and assessments, and such other jurisdiction as may be provided for by general law."

Prior to the adoption of that constitution, however, the office of county judge had been created by the Constitution of 1848, the county court thus established taking the place of the board of county commissioners until the adoption of township organization. The county judges of Stark County, with the year in which each was elected, have been as follows: James Holgate, 1849; David McCance, 1861; Hugh Rhodes, 1865; W. W. Wright, 1873; Miles A. Fuller, 1886; W. W. Wright, 1890; Bradford F. Thompson, 1902 (reelected and died in office, Frank Thomas being elected to the vacancy in December, 1912); Frank Thomas, 1914.

#### STATE'S ATTORNEY

Before the adoption of the Constitution of 1848 the state's attorney "rode the circuit," practicing in all the counties of the judicial district. The first man to serve in that capacity in Stark County was Norman H. Purple, who was in attendance upon the court at the first session, which was held at the house of Colonel Henderson in October,

1839. Mr. Purple was distinguished for his legal ability and served as judge of Fulton County from 1845 to 1849. After that he declined all public honors and devoted his time to his profession. Benjamin F. Fridley, of Ottawa, was the last state's attorney previous to the adoption of a new constitution in 1848. Since that time Stark County has always had a state's attorney of her own, to-wit: Burton C. Cook, 1848; Aaron Tyler, Jr., 1850; E. G. Johnson, 1852; Alexander McCoy, 1856; Charles P. Taggart, 1864; James H. Miller, 1872; Bradford F. Thompson, 1876; John E. Decker, 1884; B. F. Thompson, 1888; J. H. Rennick, 1892; John W. Fling, Jr., 1912.

#### UNITED STATES COURTS

The State of Illinois is divided into three Federal Court districts—the Northern, Southern and Eastern. The Southern District is subdivided into two divisions. The northern division is composed of the counties of Bureau, Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Knox, Livingston, McDonough, Marshall, Mercer, Putnam, Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, Tazewell, Warren and Woodford. Two terms of the United States District Court are held in this division annually, beginning on the third Monday in April and October at Peoria.

#### THE BAR

In early days it was the exception rather than the rule for a lawyer to have a nicely furnished office and an extensive library. Litigants were somewhat scarce, large fees were seldom charged or collected for legal services, and about all the lawyer in a young and growing community could do was "to hang on and hope for better times." The judicial circuit generally comprised several counties and as the judge rode from one county seat to another to hold court, he was often accompanied by several attorneys, carrying the principal portion of their libraries in their saddlebags with a clean shirt and an extra pair of socks. Sometimes these attorneys would have a client in the county to which they were bound, but many times they "just went along," hoping to pick up a case when the court opened.

"Riding the circuit" was a strenuous way of practicing law, but it was not altogether void of pleasant experiences. After the adjournment of court for the day, the judge and the attorneys would gather in the big room of the tavern and spend the evening "swapping yarns," relating their experiences in court, and occasionally taking a small



drink of something to ward off malaria. In fact, there was a fraternity among the lawyers and judges of "ye olden time" that has been dispelled by the increase of litigation and the fact that nearly every attorney of the present day has a library of his own and is not compelled to borrow books from counsel of the opposition.

And there were good lawyers in those days—men whose knowledge of law and powers of oratory were equal to many of the graduates of law schools of later years. They were students of human nature and knew how to swing the jury to their side, and they were nearly always attentive to the needs of their clients, conscientious in their advice, and persistent in their efforts to win their cases, not simply for the fee or the honor that would come to them, but because their client would profit by the court's decision.

When Stark County was organized there was not an attorney within its limits. Consequently, the practice in the early courts was nearly all given to the "circuit riders." Among those who practiced in the Stark Circuit Court prior to the Civil war were: J. S. Fancher, William F. Bryan, Lorin G. Pratt, L. B. Knowlton, Henry B. Hopkins, E. G. Johnson, Ezra G. Sanger and Merriman & Merriman, of Peoria; H. G. Reynolds, Leander Douglas, H. N. Keightly and Julius Manning, of Knoxville; Levi North, C. K. Ladd and John H. Howe, of Kewanee; C. K. Harvey, Ira O. Wilkinson and Robert Wilkinson, of Rock Island; Silas Ramsey and Ira J. Fenn, of Lacon; Hiram Bigelow, of Galva, and George W. Stipp, commonly called "Judge" Stipp, of Bureau County.

Several of these pioneer lawyers achieved prominence in their chosen profession, and a few of them became known in other connections. John H. Howe, of Kewanee, was colonel of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Infantry in the Civil war, and after the war served as circuit judge. H. G. Reynolds, who located at Knoxville about 1851 was state's attorney and postmaster. In 1854 he removed to Springfield and later to Kansas, where he became prominent as an attorney. Lorin G. Pratt went from Peoria to Chicago soon after the war and won a high standing at the Cook County bar. C. K. Harvey was a typical circuit riding lawyer. Full of enthusiasm for his work, quick to grasp a situation, and never averse to playing a practical joke on some brother attorney, he was regarded as one of the popular and reliable lawyers of his day.

One of the most noted lawyers of pioneer times was Richard M. Young, who held the first circuit court in Putnam County in May, 1831. He was a Kentuckian by birth, but came to Illinois while still



a young man and in 1828 was appointed circuit judge. He remained on the bench until 1837, when he resigned to accept a seat in the United States Senate. He was recognized as an authority on the constitution and laws of state and nation and tried a few cases in Stark County during the early history of the Circuit Court. After many years of usefulness he became insane and died without regaining his reason.

Of the resident lawyers of Stark County, W. W. Drummond is credited with being the first. In his early practice in the Circuit Court of Stark County he was frequently assisted by Julius Manning, who was a very able and successful lawyer. W. J. Phelps, the second resident attorney, located at Toulon soon after the county seat was established there, but did not remain long, leaving in 1846 for the West.

One of the best remembered lawyers of early days was Martin Shallenberger. He was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, December 3, 1825, and received a common school education in that county. In 1838 his family removed to Illinois, locating in the northern part of Fulton County. Martin finished his education in the Peoria Academy and early in the year 1846 began the study of law under Onslow Peters, afterward judge of the circuit court. By working diligently for a little over a year, he was ready for admission, passed the examination with credit and was formally admitted to the bar by Judges Caton and Treat of the Illinois Supreme Court. The same year he opened an office in Toulon and for more than half a century was a leading figure at the Stark County bar. Although always interested in public affairs, Mr. Shallenberger never held but one political office, that of representative in the Legislature of 1857. He was an artist of more than ordinary ability and it is said painted more than two hundred pictures, many of them of rare excellence. Several young men studied law with Mr. Shallenberger. Among these may be named Robert Barr, Ford D. Smith, Thomas D. Higgs and Frank Marsh, all of whom practiced in the Stark Circuit Court at some period of its history with honor to themselves and their preceptor.

Mr. Shallenberger's Swiss ancestors dwelt upon the mountain called the Schallenberg, in Canton Uri, and when surnames were adopted by the Swiss people in the Eleventh Century they became known as the "Schallenbergers." This was the origin of the name, though in later years the spelling was simplified by dropping the letter "c" from the first syllable. In June, 1849, he married Miss Eliza H., daughter of Dr. Thomas Hall, who in 1876 published her "Stark

County and Its Pioneers," an interesting little volume containing many valuable facts concerning the early days in Stark County. One son of this marriage, Ashton C. Shallenberger, was at one time governor of Nebraska and is now (1915) a member of Congress from that state.

On at least one occasion Martin Shallenberger turned his artistic talent to good account in his law practice. He was employed to defend a man charged with stealing a hog. While the state's attorney was addressing the jury, Mr. Shallenberger took a piece of charcoal from the stove in the old court room and in a fit of apparent absent-mindedness began drawing a picture of a man driving a hog, on the wall opposite the jury box. The jurors grew so intent in watching the work of the artist that they lost the thread of the prosecutor's argument and Shallenberger won his case. Similar stories of his eccentricities are told by old residents of Toulon, but taken all in all Martin Shallenberger was unquestionably one of the ablest lawyers that ever practiced in Stark County. His death occurred on January 4, 1904.

George A. Clifford, who has been repeatedly mentioned in these pages, was another pioneer lawyer of Stark. He was a native of Massachusetts, but at an early date came to Illinois and settled at Rochester, in the northern part of Peoria County. His first law practice in Illinois was in the Circuit Court at Knoxville, after which he went to Chicago and there became city editor of the old Chicago Democrat. Returning to Toulon he resumed the practice of law and in 1858 formed a partnership with Patrick M. Blair. Two years later he was one of the editors of the Stark County Democrat during the political campaign and in 1862 was appointed master in chancery. He also served on numerous occasions as stenographer and court reporter. Mr. Clifford had a taste for literary work and wrote the first history of Stark County. In later years he became dissipated in his habits and met his death by falling from a window in Washington, D. C.

Patrick M. Blair, mentioned in the above paragraph, was born at Frankfort, Ky., April 10, 1829, only a few days before Isaac B. Essex, the first white man to settle in Stark County, built his cabin in the Spoon River Valley. His ancestors took part in the Revolutionary war and the War of 1812. He was educated at the St. Louis University, studied law with his cousin, Montgomery Blair, and was admitted to the bar at Ottawa, Ill., in 1850. Four years later he became a resident of Toulon, where he and John Berfield opened the first lumber yard ever known to the town. In 1858 he and

George A. Clifford formed a partnership for the practice of law and for a time had their office in the courthouse. The partnership did not last long and after its dissolution Mr. Blair became associated with James Hewitt. In 1860 he was elected circuit clerk, which office he held for eight years, and he was one of the active organizers of the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad Company. In 1886 he was appointed master in chancery. Throughout his legal career he was recognized as an able and consistent lawyer, always attentive to the interests of his clients.

Thomas J. Henderson, a member of the well known Henderson family which played a conspicuous part in the early history of Stark County, was born at Brownsville, Tenn., November 29, 1824, and came to Stark County with his parents when he was twelve years of age. Before arriving at his majority he taught school in what is now West Jersey Township and later in the "Old Brick" at Toulon. In 1847 he was elected clerk to the board of county commissioners. Two years later, when the county court took the place of the commissioners, he was made clerk of that tribunal and served until 1853, when he began the practice of law. In 1854 he was elected to the lower house of the Illinois Legislature, and in 1856 was elected state senator for the district composed of Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island, Stark and Warren counties. On August 11, 1862, he was mustered into the United States service as colonel of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Infantry and served until the close of the war, being made brigadier-general by brevet by President Lincoln on January 6, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious services."

Upon returning home from the army he decided to remove to Princeton, the county seat of Bureau County, believing that town offered a better opportunity for the practice of his profession. There he formed a partnership with Joseph L. Taylor, under the firm name of Taylor & Henderson, which lasted until 1871, when General Henderson was appointed collector of internal revenue. He afterward served in Congress and one who knew him well describes him as "a brave and generous man, a patriotic citizen, a good soldier, an upright politician, and a pleasant and impressive speaker." One of his last visits to Stark County was on the occasion of the dedication of the soldiers' monument at Toulon, June 12, 1902, when he delivered the principal address.

Harvey J. Rhodes, a pioneer justice of the peace in Stark County, began the practice of law in 1851, and Charles C. Wilson, the first supervisor elected from Valley, commenced practice in 1857. The

former died many years ago and the latter removed to Princeton, from there to Kewanee, where he continued in practice until a short time before his death.

Aaron Tyler, Sr., appeared in the Stark Circuit Court in a number of cases in 1846. His son, Aaron Tyler, Jr., studied law under Judge Onslow Peters and located in Toulon. In 1850 he was elected state's attorney. At the close of his term he removed to St. Louis and from there to Knoxville, Illinois, where he was appointed circuit judge. He died in the City of Chicago some years later.

William W. Wright, who was admitted to the bar at Mount Vernon, Ill., in November, 1866, came to Toulon shortly afterward and won distinction as a lawyer. He was born in Fulton County, Illinois, September 10, 1842, and passed his early years upon a farm in Goshen Township, Stark County. During the latter part of the war he served in the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry. In 1873 he was elected county judge and served for about thirteen years, and in 1890 he was again elected to the office and served for twelve years more. He was also master in chancery for one term.

James H. Miller, who was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1869, was born in Wyandotte County, Ohio, August 29, 1843. His parents came to Illinois in 1851, first settling in Winnebago County, but in 1861 they removed to Stark County and located in West Jersey Township. In the fall of 1862 young Miller was commissioned to recruit a company for the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry. While engaged in this work he met with an injury to his hip which prevented him from entering the military service and kept him on crutches for several years. During this time he studied law and in 1869 opened his office in Toulon. In 1872 he was elected state's attorney and held the office for four years, having previously served as justice of the peace. For several terms he was counsel for the Village of Toulon and from 1884 to 1890 was a member of the lower branch of the Illinois Legislature. In connection with Judge Thompson, he was one of the projectors of the Toulon Public Library early in 1891, but died before he could enjoy the fruit of his labors.

Bradford F. Thompson was of good old New England stock, his parents, Benjamin M. and Ann (McLaughlin) Thompson, coming to Stark County from Maine in 1856. He received a good education, studied law, and his name first appears upon the docket of the Stark Circuit Court in 1878. In that year he was elected a member of the Toulon village board and two years later was made village attorney. He was elected state's attorney in 1876 and re-elected four years later.

and in 1888 he was again elected for one term. On January 29, 1891, he appeared before the village board with a petition to establish a public library; was the first president of the library board, and maintained his interest in the institution as long as he lived. In 1902 he was elected county judge and held the office by repeated re-elections until his death in 1912. For several terms Judge Thompson presided over Toulon Masonic Lodge as worshipful master, and he was a member of W. W. Wright Post, No. 327, Grand Army of the Republic, having served as a sergeant in Company B, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Infantry.

Frank N. Prout, a native of Newark, N. J., came to the County of Stark in his boyhood with his parents, Nelson and Jane (Davis) Prout. He studied law under James H. Miller and was admitted to the bar in Stark County, but soon afterward removed to Blue Spring, Neb., where he rose to prominence in his profession and was elected attorney-general of the state.

It would be impossible to give detailed sketches of every attorney who has ever practiced in the county, but in addition to those above mentioned may be added the names of Benjamin F. Williams, who practiced in Toulon about the beginning of the Civil war and was captain of Company G, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry; Tillottson & Guiteau, who began practice here in 1874, the former staying in the office at Bradford and the latter at Toulon; W. W. Hammond, a son of A. G. Hammond, of Wyoming, who after his admission to the bar located in Peoria; Harry Pierce, who was admitted to the bar in May, 1883; H. L. and A. P. Miller, the former one of the early lawyers and the latter admitted in 1879; Frank A. Kerns, a native of the county, admitted in 1888 and practiced here for several years, then went to Chicago and later to Philadelphia, and D. C. Young, who practiced in Toulon for a few years immediately after the Civil war.

No history of the bench and bar of Stark County would be complete without some mention of Miles A. Fuller, who was one of the best known lawyers and citizens of the county for many years. Mr. Fuller was born in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, April 25, 1822. When he was about twelve years of age his parents came to Stark County and settled in what is now Penn Township. When Miles grew to manhood he became associated with his brother in the milling business, building the "Modena Mills." He was elected county clerk in 1853 and held the office for thirteen years, during which time he read law and was admitted to the bar in 1862, just before the expira-

tion of his last term as clerk. For a few years he did not practice regularly, but after 1869 devoted his time to his profession. That year he was elected a delegate to the constitutional convention, and in 1870 was elected to the lower branch of the Legislature as the representative from Stark County. During the war Mr. Fuller was appointed a special commissioner from Stark to go to Springfield to inquire into the military credits in connection with the county's quota of volunteers. He served several terms as attorney for the Village of Toulon, was granted a franchise and built the electric light plant, and in other ways gave evidence of his enterprise and public spirit. In 1915 the Old Settlers' Association honored Mr. Fuller's memory by placing his portrait upon the badge worn at the annual picnic. His son, Victor G. Fuller, was also a popular attorney. For a number of years he was city attorney of Toulon, holding the office at the time of his death in December, 1913.

#### THE BAR OF 1915

From the bar docket of the Stark Circuit Court for the June term, 1915, the following list of court officers and attorneys is taken: Judges, T. N. Green, John M. Nichols and N. E. Worthington (the last named since succeeded by Clyde E. Stone); state's attorney, John W. Fling, Jr.; master in chancery, M. L. Hay; clerk, Walter F. Young; sheriff, James K. Fuller.

Attorneys—Frank Thomas (county judge), J. H. Remick, W. W. Wright, Jr., M. L. Hay and T. W. Hoopes, Toulon; John W. Fling, Jr. (state's attorney), Wyoming; Leslie N. Cullom, Bradford.

#### CRIMINAL CASES

By far the greater part of the court business in Stark County has been in connection with civil cases. A number of such cases have been carried to the Supreme Court and argued before that tribunal by members of the Stark County Bar. In cases of this character the Stark County attorney has demonstrated his knowledge of the law and his ability to hold his own, but the county has never produced a lawyer who has distinguished himself as a specialist in criminal cases. The reason is plain. The pioneers of Stark County were not of the criminal class. A diligent search of the court records reveals but very few occasions where the professional criminal lawyer would find an opportunity for the display of his peculiar talents.



There has never been a legal execution in the county, and but one man received a sentence of life imprisonment. On December 1, 1881, Peter Huber, of West Jersey Township, was killed by Andrew J. Church. A coroner's jury brought in a verdict that Huber met his death by a knife wound inflicted by the said Church, death occurring within a few minutes after the stabbing was done. Church tried to make his escape, but was overtaken by William H. Bell and Robert H. Thompson and confined in the jail at Toulon. At the April term in 1882 he was arraigned for trial. State's Attorney Thompson was assisted in the prosecution by James H. Miller and the defense was represented by J. E. Decker and A. P. Miller. The evidence brought out the fact that Church was a man of rather unsavory reputation. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty and he was sentenced to "hard labor for life."

While returning to his home from the postoffice in Lafayette on the evening of October 13, 1867, Joseph H. Wilbur was assaulted and killed by David Anschutz. The assailant was soon afterward arrested and was tried in November, 1868. Martin Shallenberger conducted the prosecution and John H. Howe, of Kewanee, appeared for the defense. A verdict of guilty was returned by the jury and Anschutz was sentenced to twenty-one years in the state's prison. These are the two most noted criminal cases that have ever occurred in the court annals of Stark County.

#### A STRAY INCIDENT

While the judge of early years was generally capable and conscientious in the performance of his duties, he was not always marked by that "judicial dignity" that in later years has become a distinguishing characteristic of the court official. Judge Thomas Ford, the first judge to hold court in Stark County, used to have a fund of anecdotes relating to the methods in vogue in the pioneer courts of Illinois. One of these stories of the humors and eccentricities of judges not thoroughly versed in the law, nor in the fundamental principles of English grammar, was of the manner in which the sentence of death was pronounced upon a prisoner. As told by Judge Ford the judge called the prisoner before him and said:

"Mr. Green, the jury in their verdict say you are guilty of murder, and the law says you must be hung. Now, I want you and your friends to know that it is not I who condemn you, but it is the jury and the law. The law allows you time for preparation, so the court wants to know what time you would like to be hung."



To this the prisoner responded that he was ready at any time, as he had his preparations all made, after which the judge continued:

"Mr. Green, do you realize that it is a serious matter to be hung? It is a thing that can't happen but once in a man's life, so you had better take all the time you can get. I shall give you until this day four weeks—Mr. Clerk, look and see if this day four weeks falls on Sunday."

The clerk looked at the calendar—or pretended to—and replied that the day fell on Thursday, whereupon the judge completed his sentence as follows:

"Very well, then, Mr. Green, you will be hung this day four weeks, in accordance with the law and the verdict rendered by the jury."

James Turney, then attorney-general of Illinois, was present and requested permission to say a few words. Permission being granted he addressed the court in this manner: "May it please the court, on solemn occasions like the present, when the life of a fellow human being is to be sentenced away by an earthly tribunal for crime, it is usual and proper for the court to pronounce a formal sentence, in which the leading features of the crime shall be brought to the recollection of the prisoner, a sense of his guilt impressed upon his conscience, and in which the prisoner should be duly exhorted to repentance and warned against the judgment in the world to come."

The presiding judge listened attentively to Mr. Turney's remarks and when the attorney-general had concluded replied: "Why, Mr. Turney, Mr. Green understands the whole business just as well as if I had preached to him for a whole month. He knows he's got to be hung in four weeks, don't you, Mr. Green?"

The prisoner answered in the affirmative and the court added: "Well, then, the business before the court is settled and the court now stands adjourned."

## CHAPTER XIV

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

MEDICINE AN OLD PROFESSION—HOME-MADE REMEDIES—CHARACTER OF THE PIONEER DOCTOR—HIS METHODS OF TREATMENT—HARDSHIPS OF FRONTIER PRACTICE—STANDING OF THE DOCTOR AS A CITIZEN—STARK COUNTY DOCTORS—BRIEF SKETCHES OF OLD-TIME PHYSICIANS—STARK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY—REGISTERED PHYSICIANS IN 1915.

Efforts to ameliorate pain, relieve suffering, heal the sick and eradicate disease are as old as the human race. When the first man was afflicted by some malady he sought among the vegetables for some remedy that would cure his ailment. If a remedy was found the plant was remembered and perhaps garnered for future use. Among the ancient physicians the names of Esculapius, Galen and Hippocrates stand out pre-eminent, the last named having been called the "Father of Medicine." Yet the growth of medical science and the healing art has had a slow and gradual development, the doctor often having to undergo the sneers and ridicule of the people, who mistrusted his methods and questioned his ability. Even as late as the early years of the nineteenth century Voltaire defined a physician as "A man who crams drugs of which he knows little into a body of which he knows less." That may have been true of a certain class of French empirics at the time it was written, but since Voltaire's day the profession has made almost marvelous strides forward, and the physician of the present day is generally a man entitled to honor and respect, both for his professional knowledge and his place in the community as a citizen.

In the early settlement of Illinois almost every family kept on hand a stock of roots and herbs, and common ailments were treated by the administration of "home-made" remedies, without the aid of a doctor. Old settlers can no doubt remember the time when boneset tea, the burdock bitters, the decoctions of wild cherry bark, or sarsaparilla root were common; or they may remember how "Grandma" or

"Aunt Jane" would make a poultice or plaster for some external injury and apply it with more solemnity than is now displayed by a skillful surgeon when he cuts open a man and robs him of his appendix. Still, these "home-made" remedies were not without some merit, and many a time they have been given with good effect, when the nearest physician was perhaps miles away.

Such was the condition when the pioneer doctor made his appearance in the frontier settlement, and probably no addition to the population was ever received with warmer welcome. The life of the frontier physician was no sinecure, however, and about the only inducement for him to cast his lot in a new country was "to get in on the ground floor" and establish himself in practice before a competitor arrived in the field. The old-time doctor was not always a graduate of a medical college. In fact, a majority of them had obtained their professional education by "reading" for a few months with some older physician and assisting their preceptors in their practice. When the young student thought he knew enough to begin practice on his own responsibility, he began to look about for a location. Then it was that the new settlement seemed to him to present the best opening and he became a citizen of some community where the oldest resident had been established but a few months, and where he could hear the howling of the wolf from his office door or upon his long night rides to visit some patient. Of course, there were exceptions to this rule, for sometimes a physician well established in practice would be caught by the "wanderlust" and decide to try his fortunes in some young and growing community.

If the professional or technical knowledge of the pioneer doctor was limited, his stock of drugs and medicines was equally limited. Duncan, in his "Early Reminiscences of the Medical Profession," says the first thing necessary was a liberal supply of English calomel. Added to this were some jalap, aloes, Dover's powder, ipecac, castor oil and Peruvian bark (sulphate of quinine was too rare and expensive for general use), and probably a few other well known drugs. In cases of fever it was considered the proper thing to relieve the patient of a considerable quantity of blood, hence every physician carried one or more lancets. And every one knew the formula for making "Cook's pills." If a drastic cathartic, supplemented by letting of blood, and perhaps a "fly blister" over the seat of the pain did not improve the condition of the patient, the doctor would "look wise and trust to a rugged constitution to pull the sick person through."

But, greatly to the credit of these pioneer physicians, it can be

truthfully said that they were just as conscientious in their work and placed as much faith in the remedies they administered as the most celebrated specialist of the present generation. It can be said further that a majority of them, as the population of the new settlement grew and the demands for their professional services increased, were not content to remain in the mediocre class. They therefore attended some established medical school and received the coveted degree of M. D., even after they had been engaged in practice for years.

When the first physicians commenced practice in Stark County they did not visit their patients in automobiles. Even if the automobile had been invented the condition of the roads—where there were any roads at all—was such that the vehicle would have been practically useless. His rounds of visits were therefore made on horseback. As his practice extended over a large expanse of country he frequently carried a lantern with him at night to enable him to find the “blazed trail” in case he lost his way. If he did not remain with the patient on such occasions until daylight, on his way home he would drop the reins upon the horse’s neck and trust to the animal’s instinct to find the way home.

There were then no drug stores to fill prescriptions, so the doctor carried his medicines with him in a pair of “pill-bags.” This was a contrivance composed of two leathern boxes, each divided into compartments for vials of various sizes, and connected by a broad strap that could be thrown across the rear of the saddle. Money was a scarce article and his fees—if he collected any at all—were paid in such produce as the pioneer farmer could spare and the doctor could use.

Besides the lancet, his principal surgical instrument was the “turn-key” for extracting teeth, for the old-time doctor was dentist as well as physician. A story is told of a man who went into a barber shop for a shave and complained to the negro barber that the razor pulled, to which the colored man replied: “Yes, sah; but if de razor handle doesn’t break, de beard am bound to come off.” So it was when the frontier doctor was called upon to act as dentist. Once he got that turnkey firmly fastened upon an aching tooth, if the instrument did not break the tooth was bound to come out.

And yet these old-time doctors, crude as many of their methods now seem, were the forerunners of and paved the way for the specialists of this Twentieth Century. They were not selfish and if one of them discovered a new remedy or developed a new way of administering an old one he was always ready and willing to impart his information to his professional brethren. If one of these old physicians could

come back to earth and casually walk into the office of some leading physician, he would no doubt stand aghast at the array of scientific apparatus, such as microscopes, stethoscopes, X-ray machines, etc. He would hardly be able to realize that he had played his humble part in bringing about this march of medical progress; yet it is even so.

The doctor, over and above his professional calling and position, was generally a man of prominence and influence in other matters. His advice was often sought in affairs entirely foreign to his business. In his travels about the settlement he came in contact with all the latest news and gossip, which made him a welcome visitor in other households, and on the occasion of these visits the best piece of fried chicken or the juiciest piece of pie found its way to the doctor's plate. He was the one man in the community who subscribed for and read a weekly newspaper, and this led his neighbors to follow his leadership in matters political. Look back over the history of almost any county in the Mississippi Valley and the names of physicians will appear as members of the Legislature, incumbents of important county offices, and in a number of instances some physician has been called from his practice to represent a district in Congress. Many a boy has been named for the family physician.

Leeson's, History of Stark County (page 191) says: "The first resident physician of Stark County was Dr. Eliphalet Ellsworth, who practiced here before the Black Hawk war, and made a permanent settlement here in 1834." His name does not appear in the list of settlers for that year, as compiled by the Old Settlers' Association and given in one of the preceding chapters of this work. A Doctor Pratt located in Elmira Township in 1835, and two years later Dr. Thomas Hall came to the same township.

Dr. Thomas Hall was born in Derbyshire, England, May 12, 1805. After attending schools at Hlland, West-Under-Wood, Brailsford and Quarndon, he began the study of medicine under Doctor Coleman, of Wolverhampton, with whom he spent an apprenticeship of five years. In 1828 he was graduated at the Royal College of Surgeons in London. Among the names on his diploma are those of Sir Astley Cooper and Dr. John Abernethy, two of the best known physicians in England at that time. On May 14, 1829, he married Miss Matilda Manifold, of Findern, Derbyshire, and in 1837 came to the United States. He first settled in what is now Elmira Township and practiced there until the county seat of Stark County was located at Toulon, when he removed there and resumed his professional labors. He brought with him from his native land a well selected medical

library and a number of surgical instruments and appliances of the most approved pattern known to that period. With this equipment, and his ten years previous experience as a physician in England, he rose rapidly in the profession in this country, becoming so well and so widely known that the Rush Medical College of Chicago, in February, 1850, conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine. The year 1840 was one of great sickness among the settlers of Stark and adjoining counties. It is related of Doctor Hall that during the season he rode for nine successive weeks, eighty miles one day and fifty-six the next, alternately, treating patients for typhoid fever and dysentery, both of which were almost epidemic. He used to tell how, after he had won his diploma and was about to leave home to begin his professional career, his mother followed him to the gate, laid her hand affectionately on his shoulder and said: "Tom, do your duty by all, but especially remember the poor." His mother's injunction was never forgotten and he was always ready to respond to a call, whether there was a prospective fee in it or not. In his old age he was wont to say: "I am not afraid to meet my mother, for she knows I have done as she told me." His death occurred in 1876. His son, Dr. Walter T. Hall, is still practicing in Toulon, and his daughter Eliza, who married Martin Shallenberger, was the author of "Stark County and Its Pioneers," which was published about the time of her father's death.

In 1840 Dr. William Chamberlain came to Stark County and soon after his arrival formed a partnership with Dr. Thomas Hall. In 1846 these two physicians treated fifteen hundred cases of fever and ague, or other forms of malarial trouble, using in their practice enough of the extract of Peruvian bark to have made eighty ounces of the sulphate of quinine. Doctor Chamberlain died at Toulon on November 2, 1882, continuing in practice until a short time before his death.

Dr. Hiram Nance, who was probably the first physician to locate in Lafayette, was a successful practitioner and accumulated a comfortable competence. Old settlers in the northern part of the county still remember him as an energetic, public spirited man and an influential citizen. After practicing at Lafayette for a number of years he removed to Kewanee, where he built a fine residence that was the admiration of the people for several miles around. There he continued in practice until a short time before his death. One of his sons was at one time governor of the State of Nebraska. Another son is now (1915) an alderman in the City of Chicago, and a third son is living at Galesburg, Ill.



Dr. J. H. Nichols, another early physician in Lafayette, came to Stark County in 1840. He was born in New Jersey on December 18, 1818, though he did not begin the practice of medicine until after he graduated at the Ohio Medical College in 1844. Like all pioneer doctors, he made his visits on horseback and built up a lucrative practice as the population grew in numbers. During the Garfield-Arthur administration from 1881 to 1885 he served as an internal revenue officer at Peoria. He was a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Lafayette and was active in promoting the welfare of that village.

Dr. Alfred Castle, who located at Wyoming in 1843, was born at Sullivan, Madison County, N. Y., September 22, 1806. His ancestors came from Ireland during the colonial days and his father was a cousin of Col. Ethan Allen, who demanded the surrender of Ticonderoga "In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." Doctor Castle received a good literary education and began the practice of medicine in 1832 at Brockport, N. Y. Two years later he received the degree of M. D. from the Berkshire School of Medicine and in 1836 came to Illinois. For four or five years he was located at Peoria, after which he went to Vermont, but in 1842 returned to Illinois and the next year established himself at Wyoming. He was a successful physician and was active in other business enterprises, laying out two additions to the Town of Wyoming and doing all he could to encourage the building of the Buda & Rushville (now the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy) Railroad, of which his son Alfred was president. He donated the lot for the Catholic Church in Wyoming and is remembered by old residents as a public spirited citizen as well as a good physician.

In 1849 Dr. Edwin R. Boardman received the degree of M. D. from the Indiana Medical School, at Laporte, Ind., and soon afterward began practice in Elmira Township. He was born in Pennsylvania, March 3, 1829, came with his parents to Illinois when he was about eleven years of age and settled near Pawpaw, in Lee County. His son, Edwin O. Boardman, also studied medicine, graduated at Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1878 and began practice with his father, but soon afterward removed to Oseola. James G. Boardman, another member of the family, also practiced medicine some time at Bradford.

Dr. Theodore Baemeister, for many years a practicing physician of Toulon, was born in the city of Esslingen, Wittenberg, Germany, January 19, 1830. At the age of seventeen years he came to the United States. Here he studied medicine, selecting the homeopathic



school, and he was one of the first doctors to practice according to that system in Stark County. Doctor Baemeister served as president of the village board of Toulon, before the city government was inaugurated. He was active in organizing the public library and was the first secretary of the library board. His death occurred on March 8, 1911. His son Otto is now postmaster at Toulon.

Among the first women to practice medicine in the county were Dr. Henrietta K. Morris and Dr. Annie L. Green, both of whom were located at Bradford. The former was elected vice president of the Illinois State Eclectic Medical Association in 1886, and the latter removed to Princeton about ten years prior to that date. Other early physicians of Bradford were: O. C. Darling, S. A. Davison, S. T. C. Washburn, and Doctors Young and Lamper.

Dr. Daniel Tyrrell located at Duncan at an early date and practiced for several years before he retired. Another early physician in that part of the county was Dr. Azra Lee, who served as an army surgeon in the War of 1812. He died at Duncan in August, 1876. Dr. J. S. Farrell and a Doctor Thomas likewise practiced at Duncan in the years gone by.

Augustus A. Dunn, the first sheriff of Stark County, was a native of the State of Georgia, where his father died. In 1831 his widowed mother removed to Ohio and about five years later came to Stark County, entering a piece of land in what is now West Jersey Township. After serving as sheriff, Mr. Dunn studied medicine, graduated, and practiced at Cambridge, Henry County, until 1862, when he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Infantry. He lost his left hand in the engagement at Kelly's Ford, Tennessee, and was again wounded at the battle of Franklin, after which he was honorably discharged and located in Chicago. There his death occurred on March 2, 1869, as a result of the wound received at Franklin, Tenn. Although he never practiced medicine in Stark County, he is here mentioned because of his early connection with the county's political history.

Mention has been made of Dr. Hiram Nance and Dr. J. H. Nichols, who were among the early physicians of Lafayette. Dr. R. O. Phillips also practiced in that town for several years before he removed to California, and Loyal T. Sprague was engaged in practice at Lafayette while Doctor Nichols was located there. Dr. John R. Crawford was another Lafayette physician along in the '80s.

Among the physicians of the past in Wyoming were Dr. Thomas Motter, who was found dead in his office in January, 1885; Dr. J. G.

Greene, who died in 1879 after a residence of several years; Dr. A. Swen, who removed to Kansas in 1886; J. C. Copestake, a native of England, assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry; Harvey N. Fox and D. W. Magee. The last named was born in Millin County, Pennsylvania, in June, 1825, a grandson of Charles Magee, who came from Belfast, Ireland, with his brother Thomas, and both served in the colonial army during the Revolutionary war. Dr. D. W. Magee followed various occupations until the beginning of the Civil war. He was then a partner in the mercantile firm of J. T. Robinson & Company, of Peoria, Ill. In the fall of 1862 he raised Company H, Eighty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and was mustered in as lieutenant-colonel. In 1865 he was commissioned colonel of the Forty-seventh Illinois Veteran Infantry and was mustered out with that regiment. At the close of the war he was brevetted brigadier-general "for distinguished services" and assigned to the command of the District of Alabama, with headquarters at Montgomery. After being mustered out he took up the study of medicine, attended Rush Medical College, Chicago, and in 1879 began practice in Wyoming.

A list of Toulon doctors of former years would include Dr. S. S. Kaysbier, who was at one time editor and publisher of the Stark County News, afterward removing to Kansas; Dr. Clark Demuth, who came from Plymouth, Mich., and practiced in Toulon along in the '70s and early '80s; Doctor Swazey, who organized the first baseball club in Stark County; Doctor Curtiss, who removed to Cleveland, Ohio, and died there in June, 1883; Dr. A. W. Peterson, who came from Germany; Doctor Kinkade and a Doctor Garfield, who practiced in the county seat from 1844 to 1848, when he removed to La Salle, Ill. Dr. Henry M. Hall, a son of Dr. Thomas Hall, also practiced for some time in Toulon. He later located in Kansas.

Other early physicians who deserve mention were Drs. W. W. Claybaugh, W. S. McClenahan and Hedges, of West Jersey; Luther S. Millikin, of Wyoming, who served as surgeon of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Infantry; Doctor Dunn, a brother of Rev. R. C. Dunn, who died in Chicago in the spring of 1869; Dr. Charles E. Jordan, who was principal of the Castleton public schools and afterward began practice in Nebraska; Dr. S. T. W. Potter, of Wady Petra, Drs. J. Fieldhouse and John B. McDee, of Camp Grove; and Doctors Hampton, Barnett, Upshaw, Kohn, Shaw and Emigh, located at various places in the county.

## STARK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

In a county like Stark, where agriculture is the principal occupation of the people and there are no large cities or towns, it could hardly be expected that a medical society of any considerable number of members would be found. But from the earliest history of the profession in this part of the state the physicians have known the advantages to be derived from organization. More than half a century ago, when there were but few resident physicians here, the doctors of Stark County united with those of adjacent counties in the formation of the "Military Tract Medical Society," and took a commendable interest in its proceedings. As population increased several of the counties in the military grant organized county societies and the old society gradually went down until, as one old physician expressed it, "It died a natural death for want of adequate support."

The Stark County Medical Society was organized on April 8, 1902, in the office of Dr. J. S. Wead, in Wyoming. Those present were: A. M. Pierce and J. S. Wead, of Wyoming; M. T. Ward and W. T. Hall, of Toulon; J. G. Boardman and L. S. Hopkins, of Bradford, and A. L. Johnson, of Castleton.

Dr. A. M. Pierce was made temporary chairman, and Dr. M. T. Ward, temporary secretary. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, after which the following officers were elected: Dr. A. M. Pierce, president; Dr. L. S. Hopkins, vice president; Dr. M. T. Ward, secretary and treasurer; Drs. J. S. Wead, J. G. Boardman and A. L. Johnson, censors. Article 2 of the constitution adopted at that time declares the objects of the society to be "the promotion of friendly intercourse among the members; the advancement of medical knowledge, and the promotion of the material interests of the profession."

In the original constitution it was provided that the regular meetings should be held on the second Tuesday in January, April, July and October of each year. This was afterward amended so that the regular meetings are held only in April and October. The April meeting is regarded as the annual meeting, at which time officers shall be elected. At a special meeting held on June 15, 1903, Drs. J. R. Holgate, L. F. Brown, William Garrison and H. A. Wyllys were admitted to membership. The constitution further provides that the society shall be affiliated with the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

The officers of the society in 1915 were as follows: Dr. James R. Holgate, of Wyoming, president; Dr. E. B. Packer, of Toulon, vice

president; Dr. Clyde Berfield, of Toulon, secretary and treasurer; Drs. E. E. Church, Clyde Berfield and J. S. Wead, censors; Dr. E. B. Packer, delegate to the meeting of the State Medical Association, and Dr. J. S. Wead, alternate. A majority of the physicians of the county are members of the county medical society.

#### REGISTERED PHYSICIANS

The following list of registered and regularly licensed physicians in Stark County is taken from the report of the Illinois State Board of Health for the year 1915: Toulon—Clyde Berfield, Elmer E. Church, W. T. Hall, L. L. Long and Elmer B. Packer; Wyoming—John G. Henson, James R. Holgate, Robert M. King, Curtis C. McMackin, Newton B. Morse (homeopath), James S. Wead and Alma T. Wead; Bradford—H. D. Boswell, W. D. Chrisman, William C. Mitchell, Gilman C. Shaw and Viola E. Shaw; Lafayette—George J. Brand; Castleton—Charles W. Neill; Elmira—L. M. Linker; Osceola—Philip F. Roberts; Speer—Clauson M. Wilmot; West Jersey—William L. Garrison.

While Stark County has never turned out a physician of "national reputation," as a rule her doctors have been capable and conscientious practitioners. Most of them have been graduates of recognized medical colleges and have kept up with the times by reading medical journals and modern works on various phases of their chosen profession.

## CHAPTER XV

### CHURCH HISTORY

DIFFICULTIES IN WRITING CHURCH HISTORY—JESUIT MISSIONARIES—  
THE METHODISTS—PEORIA MISSION—THE BAPTISTS—THE PRESBY-  
TERIANS—THE CONGREGATIONALISTS—LATTER DAY SAINTS—CHRIS-  
TIAN OR DISCIPLES—THE UNIVERSALISTS—UNITED BRETHREN—  
THE CATHOLICS—HISTORIES OF THE VARIOUS CONGREGATIONS—  
MISCELLANEOUS RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

To write a complete and correct history of the church organiza-  
tions of a county is perhaps the most difficult task that could be as-  
signed to the local historian. The founders of the churches have  
passed away, the early records have been poorly kept in some instances  
and in many cases have been lost, pastors come and go, and few people  
can be found who can give any clear account of the congregation.

Long before any effort was made by white men to found settle-  
ments in the Mississippi Valley, Jesuit missionaries visited the region  
with a view to converting the Indians to the Catholic faith. Father  
Jaques Marquette passed up the Illinois River as early as 1673. Mis-  
sionaries Allouez, Dablon and Zenobe Membre worked among the  
Indians about the head of Lake Michigan and the Illinois Valley  
before the close of the seventeenth century, and it is possible that  
some of them visited the territory now included in Stark County.

#### THE METHODISTS

After the white men began to settle in the Illinois Valley, the  
Methodists were the first to organize classes in the territory. Jesse  
Walker, the first Methodist preacher in Illinois, appointed Isaac B.  
Essex teacher to the Indians. Just where Essex's school was located  
is not certain, but it was somewhere near the present City of Peoria.  
When he settled in Stark County in 1829 he was still an earnest be-  
liever in the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and as soon  
as a few neighbors had located around him he endeavored to interest

them in the formation of a class or church. In 1835 Rev. William C. Cummings was appointed by Bishop Roberts from the Illinois conference to the "Peoria Mission," which embraced the present counties of Peoria, Fulton, Knox, Stark and Marshall. In writing of his experiences as a missionary, Mr. Cummings says: "I preached at Father Fraker's, whose name is of precious memory in the churches, and rode from there over the ground where Toulon and Lafayette now stand, though they probably had not then been thought of. Not far from the present site of Toulon lived Adam Perry, whom I appointed class leader of a small society in the Essex Settlement, where we held a quarterly meeting in 1835, at which W. B. Mack and Stephen R. Beggs were present."

In the class thus organized by Mr. Cummings were: Gen. Samuel Thomas, James Holgate, J. W. Agard and their wives, George Sparr, Adam Day, Mrs. Perry, Ann Carney and Elizabeth Essex. It was undoubtedly the beginning of church organization in Stark County. Adam Perry afterward joined the Mormon Church and J. W. Agard became the leader of the class.

In 1836 Mr. Cummings organized a society at Wyoming, which was the beginning of the Wyoming Methodist Church. The meeting was held at the house of General Thomas. Most of those included in the class of the previous year transferred their membership to Wyoming. Mr. Cummings also organized a class at Dexter Wall's, of which William Hall was made leader. Mr. and Mrs. James Holgate became members of this class, along with Mr. and Mrs. Phenix, Mrs. Wall, Mrs. Asher Smith, Mrs. William Hall and Miss Mary Hall.

About the time these classes were formed Rev. Jesse Heath, father of the first county recorder, preached for the society at Wyoming, and he was followed by Rev. Zadoc Hall and Rev. L. C. Walker. Services were held at the residences of the members, in Whitney Smith's store and in the schoolhouse until 1856, when a house of worship was built on ground donated by General Thomas. In 1837 General Thomas gave the church one and a half acres of land, upon which George Sparr built a parsonage in 1838. The old church building was sold to C. S. Payne in 1882 and the present edifice, a neat frame building, was erected.

William Hall continued as leader of the class at Wall's for about ten years. He was succeeded by John Drawyer. In 1852 this class was divided, Mr. Drawyer taking charge of a new class at Seeley's Point. When the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was completed through the county members of these two classes united in the

organizing of the Methodist Church of Castleton. Among them were the Miners, Drawyers, Norrises, Pryors, Holgates, Browns, Fosters, Bunnells and other leading families of Penn Township.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Toulon had its beginning in the year 1841, when a class was formed just south of the town, with Caleb B. Flint as leader. The next year the meetings were held at the cabin of John Prior, the pioneer chairmaker. His house and the meetings held there are thus described by Mrs. Shallenberger: "This structure, which was of hewn logs and but partly finished, never having the loft more than half floored, was very serviceable to the first comers here, serving them alternately as church and schoolhouse. The fireplace was rough and large, into which good sized logs could be thrown when occasion required; a pole, the dimensions of a common handspike, served as poker, or lever, and an old saw inverted played shovel. Then, as a pointed illustration of the proverb, 'shoemakers' wives always go barefoot,' there never was a whole chair seen in this establishment. A number of chair frames with shingles laid on them accommodated the adult listeners, while a turning lathe in the corner afforded perching places for the little folks. Thus the people gathered, the men wearing patches without shame, and the girls in sun-bonnets and coarse shoes, or the little ones without any, and listened to the Powells, Blakes, Wilkinsons and Boyers of old; but what our memory still retains of those meetings with peculiar pleasure is the rich, full tenor of Caleb Flint, which, when wedded to some of Wesley's glowing lines, bore all hearts aloft and made a sanctuary of the rough dwelling where we met."

In 1846 a quarterly meeting was held at the house of Sanniel Beatty, with Rev. A. E. Phelps, presiding elder; Rev. John G. Whitcomb, minister in charge. Rev. W. C. Cummings, the first missionary on the Peoria Mission was also present. Like the Wyoming Methodist Church, the society met in the homes of the members and various other places for a number of years. On June 2, 1853, a meeting was called to discuss the advisability of erecting a church. Rev. C. Lazenbee presided and Sanniel Beatty acted as secretary. Joseph Catterlin, who had been class leader for several years, Joseph H. Riddle, Charles N. Johnson, Bushrod Tapp and Sanniel Beatty were elected trustees and authorized to build a church. Subsequently W. F. Thomas and T. J. Wright were appointed a building committee. Early in 1854 a frame house of worship was completed and formally dedicated.

The building thus erected served the congregation for a little over thirty years. Its original cost was \$2,000. In 1865 about five hun-



dred dollars were expended in repairs and alterations, and again in 1876 several hundred dollars were spent in making the building equal to the demands of the congregation. On October 1, 1884, Rev. W. W. Carr came to the church as pastor and soon afterward started a movement for a new building. In May, 1885, he reported that \$4,000 had been subscribed. The trustees then bought the lot at the northeast corner of Main and Henderson streets, the corner-stone was laid on August 6, 1885, and before the close of the year the congregation took possession of the new structure. The first sessions of the Toulon Academy were held in the old frame Methodist Church, and it is a rather singular coincidence that the building should have been sold to the same man (H. C. Bradley) who bought the old seminary, using the latter for a residence and the old church edifice for a workshop.

In 1846, while Rev. A. E. Phelps was presiding elder, a series of meetings were conducted at Lafayette lasting nearly three weeks. Previous to that time meetings had been held in the village and a camp meeting had been held there in 1842—the second in the county, the first having been held at Wyoming in 1840. The result of the “revival” was the organization of the Methodist society. The early history of the Lafayette Methodist Church is shrouded in obscurity, but it is believed that Rev. George C. Holmes, a “circuit rider,” was the first to serve as regular pastor. Early in the '50s Rev. John Morey came. He founded the Methodist Church at Galva, which with Lafayette and West Jersey constituted a circuit.

Rev. Amos Morey took charge of the circuit in 1857 and during his first year granted about thirty letters to members of the congregation who wanted to go West, chiefly to Kansas. This weakened the church somewhat, but a revival toward the close of the year added about one hundred new members. Amos Morey died on January 14, 1892, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Rhoda M. Jackson, in Abingdon, Ill. He was then seventy-nine years of age and had spent about fifty years in active work as a minister. Mrs. Jackson now lives in Lafayette.

The first church erected by the Lafayette Methodists was a frame structure, which stood where the present church now stands. On July 31, 1873, the church was incorporated with James Martin, Edward G. Hill, John Williams, James Thomson and Emery Buffum as trustees. The present house of worship, a handsome brick building, was erected in 1900, at a cost of about eight thousand dollars.

A Methodist society was organized at Starwano at an early date and in 1868 a house of worship was erected at a cost of \$2,200. Meet-

ings were held here until the Methodist Church at West Jersey was destroyed by fire, when the Starwano building was removed to West Jersey and used in the construction of a new house of worship, the two congregations then becoming consolidated.

Among the early settlers in Osceola Grove were a few who belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church and meetings were held at an early date. In 1851 the "Osceola Class" was holding regular meetings in the schoolhouse, with Caleb B. Flint as class leader. Among the members of this class were William and Ann Hall, Diana Flint, William H. and Hannah Jones, the Stidhams, the Curriers and a few others. About the close of the Civil war a regular church was organized and a house of worship erected. For several years the congregation prospered. Then death and removals thinned the ranks and meetings were held only at irregular intervals for a time. This church received a handsome bequest from Winthrop E. Lyford, who in his will gave the trustees six acres of land where he lived and the income from the proceeds of the sale of 107 acres of land, on condition that they would erect a church, to cost at least five thousand dollars. His will is dated December 5, 1912.

About 1851 or 1852 a Methodist class of some twenty-five or thirty members was organized at the Indian Creek schoolhouse, in Goshen Township. Charles Howater was the class leader. No church building was ever erected and after a time the members united with other convenient Methodist societies.

Soon after the first settlements were made in what is now West Jersey Township, meetings were held by Methodist ministers who visited that part of the county at intervals. The West Jersey Methodist Church is the outgrowth of a class organized at Hazen's schoolhouse. The class at Finch's schoolhouse, near the east line of the township, developed into the Starwano Methodist Church previously mentioned. Isaac M. Witter of the latter class was a local preacher. There was also a class organized at Trickle's schoolhouse, which in time united with the class at Hazen's in the formation of the West Jersey Methodist Episcopal Church. This was about 1852, and a few years later a neat frame house of worship was erected in the village. It was destroyed by fire a few years ago, when the Starwano church building was removed to the village and used in the erection of a new building as above stated.

The Methodists living at Elmira and in the vicinity organized a class early in the '50s, which included the Fuller, Clark, Ferris and Hudson families and a few of their neighbors. In 1859 a series of

revival meetings were held by Rev. W. J. Smith and at the close of the revival a movement was started for the erection of a church. W. M. Fuller, Matthew Bell and Elisha Clark were appointed a building committee; M. G. Brace donated a site; funds were solicited, and in the fall of 1859 a neat frame house of worship was dedicated. The society prospered for several years, when death and removals weakened the congregation. The surviving members then united with other churches and the Elmira church went down.

Soon after the Town of Bradford was surveyed in the spring of 1854 and a few people had settled there, some of the Methodists belonging to the classes at Wall's schoolhouse and Seeley's Point began to discuss the advisability of uniting and organizing a church at Bradford. Several years elapsed before the movement took definite shape, but the early records of the congregation cannot be found, hence the history of the church prior to about 1875 is uncertain. In that year a frame house of worship was erected at a cost of \$3,500. It was dedicated on March 12, 1876, and ten years later it was extensively altered and repaired. This church is now known as the "Leet Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church." Through the generosity of William Leet, Bradford's first banker, a new building was erected and dedicated on June 11, 1899, giving the Bradford Methodists one of the best houses of worship in the county. It is located on the north side of Main Street, a short distance east of Peoria Street.

About 1849 several members of the Methodist Protestant Church settled in the Snare neighborhood in the eastern part of the county. A class was soon afterward organized by Rev. Moses Jared, of Canton. The next year a parsonage was purchased, but it was sold in 1882 and the church was removed to Castleton. Among the early members of this church were the Snare, Holmes, Adams, Ackley, Morris and Smith families, Alexander and Rhoda Ballentine, Henry and Cynthia Newton, Laura and Ella Dixon and the Fultons.

A Methodist Protestant Church was organized at Wady Petra in February, 1868. The old record shows that the first members were: Weldon and Sarah Reagan, Richard and Ann Hight, Daniel S. and Clarinda Thurston, John C. and Rachel Wright, Thomas and Ann Heywood, John and Mary Haines, Joseph and Rebecca Essex, Maria Luper, Emma Pilgrim, Viola Keeling, Elizabeth Pettit and Elizabeth Simms. During the next twenty years the church prospered, but the old members have nearly all died or are unable to attend regularly, and in recent years the church has lost some of its former prestige.

There is also a Methodist Episcopal Church in the southwestern

part of Essex Township, in the settlement known as "Stringtown." It was established many years ago, but little can be learned of its history.

#### THE BAPTISTS

Close behind the Methodists came the Baptists. On June 15, 1839, when Stark County was but about three months old, the Society of Baptists known as the Fahrenheit Church, was organized in Goshen Township, in what was called the Miner Settlement. Among the early members were Charles H. Miner and his wife, Selden Miner and wife, Elisha Gill and wife, Mrs. Parrish, J. M. Stickney and wife, and Susan M. Eastman. Elder Jonathan Miner, who was active in organizing the church, served as pastor until 1844. Meetings were held at Mrs. Chas. H. Miner's until about 1850, when the church building at Lafayette was completed.

In 1848 a Baptist Church was organized at Toulon. J. M. Stickney, Elisha Gill and H. T. Ives were chosen delegates to the Illinois River Association. Stickney and Gill had withdrawn from the Fahrenheit Church, as had a number of others, to assist in the organization of the Toulon Baptist Church. Up to 1851 meetings were generally held in the courthouse. A revival in November, 1851, added several new members to the congregation and early in 1852 a movement was started to build a church. Nothing definite was done, however, until in October, when the pastor was requested to confer with an architect regarding plans and a campaign was started to raise funds. The church building was completed and was dedicated in April, 1855.

Early in 1868 a number of the members withdrew, owing to dissensions over the ownership and management of the church property, which dissensions dated back for nearly ten years. Those who withdrew then organized the Second Baptist Church of Toulon. They purchased a lot at the northwest corner of Main and Olive streets, and before the close of the year 1868 dedicated a frame church edifice, which had been erected at a cost of \$2,375. Rev. W. A. Welsher was the first regular pastor.

In the meantime the remaining members of the old church tried to effect a reconciliation. In February, 1868, they adopted a resolution placing the church property in the hands of trustees, to be held for a new church organization, and on July 8, 1868, they again met and passed resolutions of a conciliatory nature, but the withdrawing members were not to be appeased, and for more than ten years Toulon had two weak Baptist churches instead of one strong one. In 1877

the old contentions were happily adjusted, the two churches again united and the building erected by the Second Church was sold to the Catholics.

Among those who signed the constitution of the consolidated churches in September, 1877, were: Martha and Sarah Berfield, Andrew and Julia Baldwin, Abram Bowers and wife, Albert Bowers and wife, Harriet Hall, Lettie and Sarah Silliman, Frank Williams and wife, Luther, Avery and Kate Geer, J. C. Hart and wife, Mrs. A. Gill, Flora Gill, and a number of others. Benjamin Packer, Owen Thomas, Hugh Y. Godfrey, N. F. Winans and S. W. Eastman were elected trustees and the name adopted was "The Baptist Church of Toulon." The following April the old church property was sold and within a short time afterward the present church edifice, located on the southeast corner of Jefferson and Washington streets, was erected. This building was thoroughly remodeled in the summer and fall of 1915, making one of the best houses of worship in the county.

The Baptist Church at Lafayette, which was also an offspring of the old Fahrenheit Church, continued for a number of years, when the congregation became so weakened that it was forced to disband. The church building was sold to E. G. Hill, who converted it into a planing mill.

On August 15, 1853, the Stark Predestinarian Baptist Society was organized at Modena by a number of members of the old Sandy Creek Association, who changed the name to the Spoon River Predestinarian Baptist Association. Among the founders of this society were the Vandikes, Chenoweths, Fillinghams, Isaac Babbitt, George Beall, Benjamin and Jane Newton, David Potter and Elder Robert F. Haynes, several of whom lived in Henry Comty. On October 1, 1856, the new meeting house at Modena was opened, the meetings prior to that time having been held in the Franklin schoolhouse. The record of this church closes in 1877, though a few of the members continued to hold meetings for some time after that date.

The Baptist Church of Osecola was organized on February 10, 1860, in the schoolhouse, Dr. F. R. Boardman presiding and J. G. Boardman acting as secretary. The little society continued to meet in the schoolhouse until the following year. On January 12, 1861, Isaac Spencer, E. R. Boardman, M. H. Weaver, Otis Gardner and M. J. Weaver were appointed a building committee, but the work went slowly and the building was not ready for occupancy until in 1863. This society is one of the active Baptist congregations of the county.

One of the early Baptist organizations was the Free Will Baptist Society of Elmira, which was organized several years before the beginning of the Civil war, though little can be learned of its history. Among the members were John Leason and his family, the Winslows, the Berrys, Adaline Condell, Charles Bolt, the Fairbanks family and the Griswolds, of Boyd's Grove. No house of worship was ever erected and after a number of years the society went down. The descendants of some of the early members now belong to the Baptist Society that holds meetings in a schoolhouse on Jug Run.

Elder Dodge, of Toulon, A. J. Wright, of Saxon, and J. M. Stickney visited Wyoming in August, 1867, and organized a Baptist Church with the following members. J. M. Stickney, who was the first pastor, Ephraim and Eliza M. Holton, Margaret A. Conover, Sarah and Martha E. Wilson, Mary Butler, Josephine Holton, Rachel Long, Adelaide Cole, Lucy Timmons, Louisa Hearse and Rachel Davis. Francis Walker was also a member at an early date in the society's history. Meetings were held in such quarters as could be obtained until July 10, 1872, when the frame church on Galena Avenue was dedicated and the Baptists moved into their new home out of debt. For more than forty years this house stood and meetings were held there regularly for many years, but in the summer of 1915 it was torn down and moved away, nearly all the original members having died and the church grew so weak that it was unable to employ a pastor.

On December 12, 1869, Elder Stickney, upon invitation of some of the Baptists living in Bradford, attended a meeting in that village and presented articles of association providing for the formation of a Baptist Church, which articles were signed by J. M. Stickney, Andrew and Eunice Britton, Annie Prout, John R. and Sarah Hatch, John and Mary Winslow, William F. and Madge J. Patt, Hannah S. Fulkerson and perhaps one or two others. The first services were held by Elder Stickney on January 23, 1870, and on the first day of May following, the Bradford Baptist Church was formally organized. The society adopted the name of the "First Regular Baptist Church of Bradford" at a meeting a little later and Rev. F. B. Ives preached occasionally during the first year. The first regular pastor was Rev. G. D. Kent, who came to Bradford in February, 1871, and the following April the church became connected with the Ottawa Baptist Association.

On July 21, 1871, Andrew Leslie was awarded the contract to erect a church building for \$2,275. The first services were held in the new house the day before Christmas, 1871. The building is still occu-



pied by the congregation, and, although the oldest church edifice in Bradford, it is in good repair. It is the most centrally located of any of the churches, being on the south side of Main Street, only a short distance east of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

#### THE PRESBYTERIANS

The first Presbyterian organization in Stark County was the Osceola Society, which was organized on June 8, 1839, though a meeting had been called on the 25th of May, at which the preliminary steps were taken for the establishment of a church. On that date five members of the Davis family—John, Polly, Margaret, Frances and Rosanna—Helen Brydon, Thomas and Margaret Oliver, Calvin and Betsey Winslow, John and Margaret Turnbull, William and Agnes Parks, Mary Wiseman, Sarah Spencer, Robert and Margaret Turnbull, Hannah Pike, Margaret Moore, Adam Oliver and Hannah Fuller, all were admitted to membership "on certificate."

The record shows that "William Parks, who had been ordained an elder in Virginia, was duly elected with John Davis, ruling elders in this church; that they declared their acceptance of the office, and covenanted to discharge the duties thereof, according to the Confession of Faith and the Book of Discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States."

Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "We doubt if any other religious organization within our borders sprang into life with such an array of names as this—and we mean no play upon the frequent recurrence of the name 'Margaret,' although that is singular—but whether considered numerically, or as to character and standing, it was a strong church for the time when it was formed; and it was no child's play, but a solemn compact of mature men and women to make their influence felt for good in forming the opinions and habits of the new county."

The church never had a regular pastor. Services were held at intervals by Revs. R. B. Dobbins, W. J. Frazer, E. S. High, and William F. Vail. In the organization all but four of the members voted for the adoption of the Old School form of worship, which method was followed as long as the church existed. After the removal of the postoffice to Elmira and the establishment of the Presbyterian Church there, the Osceola Society went down, the last records bearing date of August 14, 1855.

Another Presbyterian Church of 1839 was the one organized in what is now West Jersey Township. Among the members in 1841



(the earliest records preserved) were James Hulsizer, S. G. Wright, James Ferguson, Francis Anthony, Wesley Heath, Newton Matthews, Rev. A. C. Miller, the McIntoshes, McKinstrys, Eatons, Bodines, Youngs and other pioneer families whose names are familiar in the early history of the county. The last regular pastor was Rev. J. C. Hannah, who preached there in 1877. Not long after that the church disbanded.

The Presbyterian Church of Lafayette dates its beginning from 1841, when Rev. S. G. Wright, afterward school commissioner, preached in the village and several persons expressed their desire to organize a church. No house of worship was ever erected and when in 1846 some of the members withdrew to join the Congregational Church at Toulon, the Lafayette Society passed out of existence.

Mrs. Shallenberger, whose book was published in 1876, says of the United Presbyterian Church of Elmira: "This church was originally known as the 'Associate Reformed Congregation of Osceola,' changed in 1852 from Osceola to Elmira to correspond with the name of the nearest postoffice. And the Associate and Associate Reform churches of the United States being formally united in May, 1858, the congregation became known by that union as 'The United Presbyterian Church of Elmira,' by which name it is still recognized."

Although the formal organization of the church dates from 1852, Rev. N. C. Weede, a Presbyterian minister of Marshall County, had held meetings and preached in Elmira as early as 1849. Among the early members of this church were the Turnbulls, Olivers and some others who had been identified with the Presbyterian Church at Osceola. Then there were the Murchisons, Grieves, Murrays, Jacksons, Scotts, McLennans and other well known families who were affiliated with this congregation at an early day and active in its support. In 1853 an acre of land was bought from Clinton Fuller and a frame church, 30 by 40 feet, was built for \$1,275.

To quote again from Mrs. Shallenberger: "In the spring of 1864 a considerable number left this congregation (the United Presbyterian of Elmira) to constitute the 'Knox Church of Elmira,' which is in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church. Much interest attaches to this Knox Church, partly because its communicants are mainly Scotch Highlanders, or Gaelic people, and services have usually been performed in the Gaelic tongue."

As early as 1856 some of the Scotch Presbyterians in and about Elmira applied to the Canada Synod of the Presbyterian Church to send a minister who could preach in either Gaelic or English. Not

long after that, Rev. Duncan McDermid came and preached two sermons, and in 1862 Rev. Adam McKay visited them for two successive Sundays. In 1864 Rev. Lochlin Cameron, of Acton, Ontario, came and remained for about six weeks. It was under his ministrations that the church was formally organized. He was succeeded by Rev. Archibald McDermid, and on September 27, 1864, John McLennan, Donald McDonald and James Armstrong were elected elders. Meetings were held in the homes of the members or in the Methodist Church until 1866, when a house of worship was erected.

A third Presbyterian Church was organized at Elmira on May 8, 1881, by Revs. T. G. Scott and John Weston. While several members of this society were Scotch, a large number were English speaking people, who could not understand the Gaelic language. At a meeting held on December 20, 1881, to consider the question of building a church, a majority decided in favor of the proposition and John Roberts, John Fowler, John G. Turnbull, George Armstrong, Joseph Chapman, Daniel Dodd, William Beattie, George E. Holmes, John Hindmarsh, Henry Scott, James Cinnamon, Alexander Buchanan and William Stevenson were appointed a committee to take charge of the movement. About a week later Clinton Fuller donated a lot and in the fall of 1882 the church edifice was completed at a cost of \$5,000. The first services were held in the new house on December 15, 1882. A parsonage was erected in 1885 at a cost of \$2,500. It is located on the Toulon road, a little southwest of the village.

Leeson's History of Stark County, published in 1887, says: "It is notable that the three Presbyterian churches of Elmira Township pay \$3,000 as salaries annually, and about the same amount for other church purposes."

A society of Cumberland Presbyterians, known as the "Mound Church," was organized at Modena some time in the '40s. It was never prosperous and after a few years it went down. The house of worship erected by this church became the property of the Old School Baptists, who in turn disbanded.

#### THE CONGREGATIONALISTS

A year or two after Stark County was organized, a few persons living in the southern part, near the Peoria County line, held meetings and worshiped according to the Congregational faith. There is a tradition that a church was organized there, but none of its records have been preserved. There was an effort made to organize a Con-

gregational Church at La Fayette about 1841 or 1842, but nothing definite can be learned of the movement.

It is therefore quite probable that the Congregational Church of Toulon is entitled to recognition as the first society of that denomination in the county. In November, 1846, Rev. S. G. Wright, Rev. L. H. Parker, Hugh Rhodes and a few others met in the court room at Toulon and took the necessary steps to organize a church by adopting the confession of faith covenant recognized by the Congregational ritual. The charter members were Hugh and Jonathan Rhodes and their wives, Giles C. Dana and wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Rhodes, Franklin and Eliza Rhodes. Of the nine original members, seven belonged to the Rhodes family, and the little society became known as the "Rhodes Church."

In March, 1847, at a meeting held at the house of Hugh Rhodes, nine new members were received into the church. They were S. G. Wright, Robert Nicholson and wife, Orrin Rhodes and wife, John Pollock, Jane Bradley, Mrs. Matilda Hall and Miss Eliza Hall. Rev. S. G. Wright was the first pastor. He was identified with the society until December, 1854.

The first movement toward the erection of a house of worship was made on August 24, 1849, when James Flint, Charles F. White and Hugh Rhodes were appointed a committee to confer with the Methodist congregation with a view of effecting some arrangement by which the two societies could be united in the erection of a house of worship to be used by both. But the Methodists declined to co-operate. Mr. Wright then started out with a subscription paper, secured pledges or subscriptions amounting to a little over one hundred dollars, went to Henry County and made arrangements for lumber, and finally borrowed \$700 from a Fulton County man. He also "drafted" men to go to the quarry, and teams to haul stone for the foundation, and on September 21, 1851, the congregation worshiped for the first time in the "new Congregational Church on Henderson Street," though the house was not fully completed until some months later.

In July, 1882, James H. Miller and R. J. Dickinson were appointed a committee to inquire into and report on the cost of repairing the old church or building a new one. Their report, which favored a new building, was adopted by the congregation and on August 8, 1882, a majority of the members voted in favor of erecting the new church upon the site of the old one. The building committee at the same time was instructed to sell the old church and on October 15, 1882, it was sold to Charles S. Payne, of Wyoming, for \$175. A

little later Mr. Payne purchased the old Methodist Church of Wyoming and out of the two he built the Wyoming Opera House. The new Congregational Church was dedicated on January 3, 1884, and was used by the society until 1914, when the present magnificent house of worship was dedicated. It is located at the southeast corner of Thomas and Henderson streets and was erected at a cost of about thirty thousand dollars.

The Congregational Church of Bradford was organized on November 28, 1869, by Rev. B. M. Roy, but none of the church records can be found. Meetings were held in a hall or in the Baptist Church until about 1874, when the few members grew discouraged, disbanded their organization and united with churches elsewhere.

On April 3, 1873, fourteen Congregationalists living in Wyoming got together and organized the Wyoming Congregational Church. The next Sunday Rev. A. A. Stevens, of Peoria, preached for the little society and a little later Rev. W. Walters took charge as pastor. He remained with the church until 1883, when he was called to the church at Lacon, Ill. The original fourteen members of this church were Dr. John C. and Sarah C. Copestake, John and Prudence Rockhold, Henry F. and Charlotte Turner, John and Augusta Hawks, James and Susannah Buckley, William and Mary A. Walters, Mary C. Scott and Ann Wrigley.

On July 15, 1874, the pastor, John Hawks and Henry F. Turner were appointed a building committee. A lot on Main Street was purchased for \$100 from W. F. Thomas, who donated the adjoining lot, and the church edifice was built thereon at a cost of \$3,585. At the time it was completed and dedicated (May 4, 1875), it was considered the finest church building in Stark County. The society is still an active power for good in Wyoming and in 1915 was under the pastoral charge of Rev. William Moore.

In 1880 a few Congregationalists living in the little Village of Stark and the adjacent country organized a small society and for a time held meetings in Simpson & Smith's warehouse. Later the abandoned cheese factory was obtained as a place of holding services, and here a Sunday school was organized in the spring of 1883. The persons who kept up the Sunday school and the religious meetings did not claim to be a regular church, and it was not until February 19, 1885, that a meeting was called for the purpose of effecting a formal organization. Then the Stark Congregational Church was founded and M. S. Smith, H. F. Blood, W. F. Speer, L. Dixon and Charles Hampson were appointed a finance committee, to solicit aid for the building of a church.

The organization of the church was finally completed on April 19, 1885, when eighteen members signed the articles of association. The work of erecting a church was pushed with vigor and on September 20, 1885, the house of worship was dedicated. Its cost was \$2,000. Rev. J. K. Tomkins, of Chicago, preached the sermon on that occasion.

#### LATTER DAY SAINTS

For some five or six years following the organization of Stark County the Mormons, or Latter Day Saints, were quite active in the Spoon River Valley. Mormon elders and evangelists visited every settlement and wherever given an opportunity expounded the peculiar doctrines of their church. And they made some converts in quarters where such a thing could hardly have been expected, a few of the pioneers selling all they had to follow the fortunes of the "saints." Walnut Creek is referred to in Rev. S. G. Wright's diary as "the heart of the Mormon settlement," though no organized church was ever established in the county. The elders operated about West Jersey, in Essex Township and in the vicinity of Lafayette. Among their converts were Adam Perry and some members of the Essex family.

#### PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This denomination has never been strong in Stark County, the only church being the one at Wyoming. It dates from the year 1848, when Rev. Richard Radley, of Jubilee, Peoria County, came to Wyoming and conducted services at the house of Henry Butler. Mr. Radley made monthly visits until March, 1851, when he left for New York. He was succeeded by Rev. Philander Chase, who formally organized the parish in September, 1851, as "St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church." The articles of association were signed by H. A. Holst, Charles S. Payne, Dr. Luther S. Milliken, W. B. McDonald, Thomas B. Whiffen and Henry Butler.

The parish was admitted into union with the diocese on October 18, 1855, and in May, 1857, a movement was inaugurated for the erection of a church building. In July H. A. Holst, A. B. Butler and J. H. Hopkins were appointed a building committee, the building was finished in due time and was dedicated on the last day of February, 1858. The cost of the edifice was \$1,020, of which the people of Chicago gave \$271 and \$172 came from Episcopal churches in the East. In the course of a few years the business district of Wyoming

spread until the location of the church became undesirable and the congregation accepted the offer of Dr. Alfred Castle to donate a lot on North Galena Avenue, to which the building was removed in the early part of 1874.

In July, 1883, Rev. George Moore, then pastor of the Episcopal Church at Wyoming, conducted services in Bradford as a sort of experiment. He had a good audience and twenty-six persons were found in and near the village who expressed a desire to become members of the Episcopal Church. Accordingly, at a business meeting held on July 25, 1883, the necessary papers were prepared and signed to send to Bishop Burgess at Quincy, requesting his approval of and assistance in organizing a mission at Bradford, to be known as St. James. The bishop gave his approval and in December sent Rev. R. C. Wall, of Tiskilwa, to take charge of the mission, under instructions to hold services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. A room was rented in which to hold these services and the attendance was fairly good for four or five years. Then it began to fall off and the mission of St. James was soon afterward abandoned.

#### CHRISTIANS OR DISCIPLES

The first Christian Church to be organized in the county is the one at Toulon, which dates back to July 15, 1849, when a meeting was held in the old courthouse and the following persons signed the membership roll: Elijah and Sarah McClenahan, Edward and Martha J. Wilson, David and Mary J. McCance, Henry Sweet and James Bates. Rev. Milton P. King, who was present at the meeting, was the first pastor of the church. In 1855 a church edifice was erected on the east side of Washington Street, between Main and Vine. The building, a substantial brick structure, is still used by the congregation, though a few years ago it was generally overhauled and remodeled, the walls covered with cement and "penciled" to resemble stone. The property is valued at \$5,000. During an electrical storm in August, 1915, lightning struck the church, tore the top off the chimney and damaged the roof to a small extent.

Prior to the organization of the Toulon church, Rev. Milton P. King had conducted meetings near the south line of the county, in what was then known as the "Pratz Settlement," and several persons united with the church, but no regular church organization was effected. Mr. King also preached at Wyoming and Lafayette and a Christian Church was finally organized at the latter place on August 1, 1873,



under the name of the "Church of Christ," with John Boyd, James Ingles and J. H. Quinn, trustees. A building was soon afterward erected and services held regularly for several years, when the society went down and its records have been lost.

#### THE UNIVERSALISTS

Three Universalist congregations have been organized in Stark County, but none was in existence in 1915. Rev. R. M. Bartlett came to Toulon in the winter of 1860-61 and preached in the Odd Fellows' Hall, though previous to this time sermons had been preached in the town by Universalist ministers, whose names have been lost. A small society was organized in Toulon by Reverend Bartlett, but no house of worship was ever built and about 1873 the Universalists ceased to hold meetings.

On November 16, 1867, a society of Universalists was organized at Bradford and took the name of the First Universalist Church. Among the members were Bradford S. Foster, William M. and Mary E. Pilgrim, Alonzo Abbott, Lydia K. Abbott, B. F. Thompson, W. B. Foster, Francis and Nancy Davis, the Curtisses, the Spinneys and several others who were members of the leading families in that part of the county. Soon after the organization of the church the old schoolhouse was purchased and remodeled for a house of worship, and B. F. Thompson, Willard B. Foster and J. O. H. Spinney were elected trustees. The last board of trustees of which any record can be found was composed of Silas Moody, Melvin Gage and Mordecai Bevier.

The Universalist Church of Lafayette was organized on November 29, 1873, by Rev. John Hughes. Among the members of this society were: G. H. Redfield and wife, Charles B. and P. H. Smith, A. M. Snyder and wife, Samuel White and wife, Mrs. T. D. Church, Mrs. Sarah Church, Mrs. A. E. Parker, Mrs. Ann Dunbar and Julia Lake. In 1875 a neat frame church was erected at the northeast corner of Lafayette and Hodgson streets, at a cost of \$3,300, and meetings were held regularly for several years, when reverses came and the society went down.

#### UNITED BRETHREN

Like the Protestant Episcopal Church, this denomination has never been very strong in the county. In 1867 the "Pleasant Valley





ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, BRADFORD

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Church" was organized in the southeastern part of Essex Township and numbered among its members the Fautzes, Springers, Joneses, Colwells, Eekleys, Andrew, Peter and George Sheets and a few others. The church lot and cemetery were platted in August, 1873, in the northeast quarter of section 32, by Edwin Butler, then county surveyor. Although this church has fallen off in numbers in recent years, meetings are still held occasionally.

Another United Brethren Church was established at Wyoming in 1872 and continued in existence for about ten years. Samuel and Lorina Farden, Jesse and Cynthia Redding, the Bogards, Baldwins, Beavers, Sammel Bishop, Sammel and Lueretia Redding, Henry Curfman and wife and Malinda O'Vanda were the first members. The last services here were conducted by Rev. J. S. Smith on October 28, 1882. The church building was sold to Thomas Dugdale, who converted it into a residence.

#### THE CATHOLICS

Among the first settlers around Bradford were a few Catholic families and some years after the town was laid out others were added to the population. Priests came there at intervals and said mass in the homes of some of the believers, and early in the '70s steps were taken to organize a parish. Among the leaders in the movement may be mentioned Owen Sharkey, Michael Real, John Hickey, Thomas Powers, Edward Harty and Walter Hennebury, who were appointed as a building committee in 1875. Then there were the Codes, Gormans, O'Briens, Mahaneys, Walshes, Cooneys, Caseys, McSherrys and some others who had been brought up in the Roman Catholic faith, and who were active supporters of the new church, which was given the name of St. John's Parish.

The first church edifice was dedicated on January 8, 1876, the priest at that time being Father O'Gara. The present pastor, Rev. P. H. McCarron, came to the parish in 1893. Under his ministrations a magnificent new church has been erected at a cost of \$50,000 and the old frame building has been converted into a public hall, sometimes called the "Bradford Opera House." In October, 1915, the parish numbered 115 families.

St. Dominic's Catholic Church, at Wyoming, was organized in 1880 and the church building was dedicated on July 27, 1881, Bishop Spalding officiating. It is located in the northeastern part of the city, on a lot that was donated by Dr. Alfred Castle. John Colgan, John Seibold and Michael Colgan were the building committee and the

edifice cost about thirty-five hundred dollars. For some time before the parish was established the Catholic families were visited by priests from Peoria, Lacon and other convenient points. Father Moynihan was the first resident priest. In 1915 the parish was under the charge of Father M. A. Humphreys.

As early as 1840 the Nowlans, Drimmins and a few other Catholic families settled in the neighborhood of the present City of Toulon and priests came here at times and said mass in the homes. About 1867 a mission was established at Toulon and was attended by priests from Bradford, Kewanee and other places for several years. Rev. John Moore said mass in the Second Baptist Church on December 30, 1877, shortly after the two Baptist congregations had agreed to consolidate, and the following March the building formerly occupied by the Second Baptist Church was sold to the Catholics. This is still a mission and in 1915 was attended by Father Richard D. O'Loughlin, of Galva.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

About the close of the war some of the citizens of Goshen Township united with some of the people living in Henry County in building a Union Church at Saxon. Here ministers of various denominations have held services. The Union Church was dedicated on August 31, 1865.

St. Timothy's German Evangelical Lutheran Church at Castleton was organized in 1878, by Rev. F. R. Bess, of Peoria. Here the Conrads, Dunkelmanns, Brinkmanns, Wagners, Burmeisters, Schwartzes, Zimmermans and other German families of Penn Township have since worshiped according to the tenets of the faith in which they were brought up. Rev. Carl Proehl was the first pastor and the house of worship, a modest frame, was dedicated on December 8, 1878.

A Young Men's Christian Association was organized at Toulon in March, 1885, with nineteen members. Charles H. Christy was the first president and W. F. Nicholson the first secretary. The association continued for some time, but for want of a suitable home was finally disbanded.

The Wyoming Camp Meeting Association was formed in 1883, although camp meetings had been held there nearly every year since 1840. The second camp meeting in the county was held at Lafayette in 1842, as previously stated. In 1883 James M. Rogers, B. G. Hall and E. J. Edwards were appointed an executive committee for the Wyoming Camp Meeting Association and made several needed im-

provements upon the camp ground, so that the meetings since that time have been better accommodated.

The Stark County Bible Society was organized in 1856 with Norman Butler, president; C. M. Johnson, vice president; T. B. Starrett, secretary; Davis Lowman, treasurer; Rev. R. C. Dunn, chairman of the executive committee; Samuel Halsted, Benjamin Packer and Hopkins Shivers, local agents; Mrs. Norman Butler and Miss Sarah Armstrong, collectors. It continued in existence for several years and was influential in placing copies of the Bible in the homes of several families throughout the county.

The Elmira Bible Society was organized on June 24, 1857, with John Turnbull, president; W. M. Fuller and Joseph Blanchard, vice presidents; M. G. Brace, secretary; Dr. E. M. Boardman, treasurer. Liberal contributions were made by this society to the American Bible Society for several years, in fact for some time after regular meetings ceased.

The Stark County Sunday School Union was formed in 1866 and held its first meeting in James Holgate's grove that year. Davis Lowman was the first president and W. W. Wright the first secretary. Meetings or conventions have been held annually since that time. The fiftieth annual convention was held in the Methodist Church at Bradford on October 28-29, 1915. At that time the officers of the union were: H. D. D. Martin, president; George C. Strattan, vice president; Mrs. M. L. Earhart, secretary and treasurer.

In connection with several of the Stark County churches are ladies' aid societies, auxiliary missionary circles, etc., so that the church work is carried on systematically and without friction.

## CHAPTER XVI

### SOCIETIES AND FRATERNITIES

MUTUAL PROTECTION SOCIETY—ITS AIMS AND OBJECTS—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND FAIR ASSOCIATIONS—OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION—THE LOG CABIN — OLD SETTLERS' MONUMENT — LETTERS FROM PIONEERS—MASONIC FRATERNITY—ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR—INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS—DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH—GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC—TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES—MISCELLANEOUS SOCIETIES.

One of the earliest Stark County societies of which there is any record was the Stark County Mutual Protection Society. In early days the Illinois Valley was infested by gangs of horse thieves and other outlaws, who were constantly committing depredations upon the property of the frontier settlers. The legal machinery of civil government was in its infancy and it was not an easy matter to secure the arrest and conviction of the offenders through regular channels, hence in a few cases lynch law was resorted to by the pioneers to break up the gangs of thieves and bring law and order to the community. There is no record of a lynching ever having occurred within the limits of Stark County, but the settlers suffered losses through the operations of the Driscoll, Brodie and Aikens gangs, the leaders of which lived in the northern part of the state and could always be relied upon to furnish an alibi when one of the gang might be arrested.

In the summer of 1848, after the county had been organized for more than nine years and the gangs of outlaws were still operating through this part of the state, some of the citizens of Stark County began to discuss the advisability of organizing for the purpose of aiding the legal authorities in putting a stop to the depredations. The result of the agitation was that a meeting was called at the courthouse in Toulon for August 12, 1848, at which the Stark County Mutual Protection Society was organized. Myrtle G. Brace was elected president; Hugh Rhodes, secretary; and Wheeler B. Sweet, organizer. Committees were appointed for the five precincts of the county as

follows: Massillon—Edward Trickle, Thomas S. Clark and Allen Greenlee; Toulon—William Ogle, George Buchanan and Oliver Whitaker; Wyoming—Henry Butler, Joseph Newton and James Holgate; Lafayette—William Pratt, M. Atherton and Jacob Emery; Osceola—John Lyle, William Dodd and Walter Fuller.

It may be of interest to the reader to know just who belonged to the society. Besides the officers and committees above named, those who enrolled themselves as members were: Isaiah Ackley, H. S. Albright, Joseph Atherton, J. H. Barnett, Joseph Blanchard, William Bowen, Henry Brice, A. R. Butler, Samuel G. Butler, W. H. Butler, William Chamberlain, Joseph Cox, John Dodd, Lemuel S. Dorrance, Thomas Dugan, W. E. Elston, Conrad Emery, David Emery, Jesse Emery, Joseph Emery, Brady Fowler, W. T. Fuller, Christian Gingrich, Thomas Hall, William Hall, A. W. Harrod, J. W. Henderson, Thomas J. Henderson, Jacob Holgate, Henry T. Ives, William Lyle, Elijah McClenahan, William Moore, Philip Munson, Joseph R. Newton, Lewis Perry, John Pollok, Peter E. Pratt, John Prior, John Richey, Hugh Rhodes, W. M. Rose, George Sheets, Minott Silliman, Nathan Snare, Henry Sturm, Mathias Sturm, George Summer, Jacob Summer, W. B. Sweet, Isaac Thomas, Samuel Thomas, Henderson Truman, John Turnbull, Ira Ward, Hugh White, George A. Worley and Samuel G. Wright.

A few of the members lived in Knox and Henry counties, but in the above list will be found the names of a large number of the pioneer settlers of Stark County who left the impress of their character upon local institutions. All were law-abiding citizens and the society continued in existence until the reign of law was fully established and the country was rid of the desperadoes.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The first move toward organizing an agricultural society in Stark County was made in the fall of 1843, when a number of farmers met in the old courthouse at Toulon for that purpose. Jonathan Miner was called to the chair and Henry Butler was chosen secretary. The latter delivered an address, urging the necessity for and importance of such a society. After some discussion a society was organized with Col. W. H. Henderson, president; Lemuel S. Dorrance, vice president; Oliver Whitaker, secretary; Jonathan Hodgson, treasurer; James Holgate, Sylvanus Moore and Cyril Ward, executive committee. Committees of three were chosen in each of the precincts of



the county, but the society never did any active work for the promotion of the agricultural interests, such as holding county fairs, etc.

On October 29, 1853, the society was reorganized, or it might be more proper to say a new one was organized to take its place, although quite a number of the members of the old society retained their membership under the reorganization. The first fair was held at Toulon, beginning on September 20, 1854. Concerning this fair Mrs. Shallenberger says: "Some still remember that first fair in 1854, when the stock was quartered in Mr. Whitaker's yard and exhibited in the public square, while the products of the dairy, kitchen and loom were disposed of within the old courthouse, the table containing a few fancy articles which a gentleman lifted up, one by one, that they might be seen by the assemblage. \* \* \* But in one respect, at least, this little fair of 1854 was a prototype of all its successors, viz: disappointed competitors for premiums felt at liberty to vent their chagrin on or at the judges of the various departments, whom they thought had been instrumental in wounding their vanity. The writer recalls that she was unfortunately a judge of dairy products on this occasion, and being concerned in awarding the first premium ever awarded in Stark County for butter, to Mrs. Ann Hartley, was soundly berated before leaving the house by another competitor, who informed the judges one and all that 'they couldn't know good butter when they saw it;' but they still think they did."

On June 3, 1856, the society petitioned the board of supervisors to lease seven acres of land in the southwest corner of the poor farm for a fair ground, with the right to make such improvements as might be necessary for holding fairs successfully. The petition was granted and the board of supervisors leased the seven acres to the society for a term of twenty-five years, at a rental of 1 cent annually. Five additional acres were leased to the society on December 12, 1859. Fairs were held here until 1868, when the society decided to incorporate and purchase the fair grounds. The supervisors' minutes for October 16, 1868, contain the following entry:

"At a meeting held at the courthouse in the Town of Toulon, in the County of Stark and the State of Illinois, on the 10th day of October, A. D. 1868, for the purpose of incorporating the Stark County Agricultural Society, due notice whereof had been previously given, P. M. Blair, J. H. Quinn, P. Nowlan, John Turnbull, D. Tinnin, James Frail, Davis Lowman, William Nowlan, William Lowman, B. H. Bush, Benjamin R. Brown, I. W. Searle, Liberty Stone, S. P. Fast, Benjamin Boughn, Andrew Oliver, G. W. Dewey, John

Hepperly, C. M. S. Lyon, H. M. Hall, James Shivers, Perry Winn, J. M. Brown, R. J. Dickinson, John W. Riggs, Robert McKeighan, Charles Myers, Nathan Lankford, and James Holgate, legal voters of said county, being present, it was unanimously resolved that the above named persons be and are organized into a society to be known as the 'Stark County Agricultural Society,' and upon the adoption of a constitution and by-laws for said society, Oliver Whitaker was chosen president; Patrick Nowlan, recording secretary, and William Lowman, treasurer of said society."

Soon after the incorporation, the society purchased the twelve acres leased from the county some years before, and a little later purchased three acres adjoining. Fairs were held annually upon these grounds until about 1888, when the society decided to disband. A portion of the fair grounds was sold in 1889 to Miles A. Fuller, who bought another section in 1891, and in 1893 the remaining portion was sold to Burge & Dewey.

In the winter of 1873-74 some of the citizens of Wyoming made an effort to have the Stark County Agricultural Society remove its fairs to that town. James Holgate, F. F. Brockway, W. F. Thomas, Alfred Castle, Perry Stancliff, Isaac and Samuel Thomas agreed to remove the lumber from Toulon to Wyoming free of charge, and Winfield Scott guaranteed the payment of \$800 for the purpose of fencing and improving new fair grounds. On the other hand B. C. Follett, Doctor Baemeister and J. D. Rhodes, of Toulon, tendered the society the free use of five acres adjoining the fair grounds on the east, on condition that the fairs should be held at Toulon for ten years. On January 24, 1874, the propositions were taken under consideration by the society and the vote to remain at Toulon was seven to six, Wyoming losing by one vote.

The people of Wyoming were not altogether satisfied to remain without a fair, and on October 23, 1878, a meeting was called to consider the question of organizing the "Central Agricultural Society of Stark County." A. G. Hammond presided and F. B. Wall acted as secretary. A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions to a capital stock, but nothing definite was accomplished for about two years.

Another meeting was held on February 5, 1881, at which a constitution was adopted, signed by Benjamin Bunnell, George W. and Winfield Scott, T. B. Wall, James M. Thomas, Samuel Wrigley, John Speer, James McKean, John Monier and A. G. Hammond. Winfield Scott was chosen president; Samuel Wrigley, vice president;

J. M. Thomas, recording secretary; T. B. Wall, general secretary; G. W. Scott, treasurer. In April, 1881, the new society purchased 39½ acres of ground from Mrs. M. A. Markham and the work of improving was commenced. The first fair was held here beginning on September 6, 1881, and lasting four days, \$4,000 being paid in premiums.

Doubtless the competition offered by the Wyoming fair had its influence upon the old Stark County Agricultural Society and hastened its downfall, but there were other influences at work in that direction. Not the least of these was the fact that the society had incurred some indebtedness that it found difficult to liquidate and finally decided that the best way out was to sell the property.

In 1915 the officers of the Central Agricultural Society, or Wyoming Fair Association, as it is commonly called, were as follows: W. H. Wrigley, president; John P. Code, vice president; E. Arganbright, secretary; J. E. King, treasurer. The board of directors was then constituted of the above officers and W. H. Hartz, Orpheus Bailey, D. J. Colgan and J. J. Moran, of Wyoming, and E. C. Caverly, of Toulon.

The Lafayette Horse and Fair Association held its tenth annual fair on August 31, September 1, 2 and 3, 1915. The fair grounds include sixty-five acres a short distance west of the town, located in a natural park that is conceded to be one of the prettiest groves in the state. The grounds are equipped with modern horse and cattle barns, a good half-mile race track, etc. The farmers of three counties—Knox, Stark and Henry—are interested in this fair association and have cooperated to make the exhibits here as good as any county fair in the State of Illinois. In 1915 A. H. Jackson was president; F. E. Winans, vice president; F. T. Gelvin, secretary and treasurer. The directors were: J. G. Reed, F. F. Quinn, A. M. Janes and Arthur Baltimore, of Lafayette; M. B. Downend and E. L. Paeker, of Toulon; W. I. Sellon, William Beals and Will Cardiff, of Galva.

#### OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION

Although the pioneers in a new settlement on the frontier of civilization may come from widely different sections of the country, or even from foreign climes; may speak different languages and worship at different shrines; may hold opposing views on political questions, they soon learn that they are dependent upon each other to a great extent and cooperate for the general good. They borrow and

lend freely, attend each other in times of sickness, share their good fortune in times of prosperity and sympathize with each other in adversity. The fraternal relations thus established become hallowed by fond memories as the years pass by and another generation comes upon the scene. It is but natural, and it is well that such is the case, for these old settlers to enjoy meeting together and talking over the incidents of former years. Through this spirit old settlers' associations have been organized in numerous places throughout the great Middle West, and through these associations have been preserved many interesting facts regarding local events—facts that otherwise would have been lost to history.

The first attempt to organize an old settlers' association in Stark County was made on January 2, 1866, when a meeting was held at the Town of Toulon for that purpose. Dr. Thomas Hall was chosen to preside and Oliver Whitaker was elected secretary. T. J. Henderson, C. L. Eastman and C. M. S. Lyon were appointed a committee to make arrangements for another meeting, to be held on April 4, 1866, and a committee, consisting of one member from each township, was chosen to prepare a list of all persons residing in the county on April 4, 1839, when the county commissioners met for the first time. That committee was composed as follows: M. G. Braee, Elmira Township; W. H. Butler, Essex; Lewis Perry, Goshen; W. W. Winslow, Osceola; James Holgate, Penn; C. L. Eastman, Toulon; Harry Hull, Valley; Washington Trickle, West Jersey. The committee, or at least some of the members thereof, performed its duty, but if a meeting was held in April following no record of it can be found.

On December 13, 1878, over one hundred old settlers assembled at the Toulon House, where a sumptuous dinner was served, after which they marched through a severe snow storm to the town hall to consider the question of an old settlers' society of some character. After the meeting was called to order by Benjamin Turner, Oliver Whitaker was chosen chairman and E. H. Phelps, secretary. Minott Silliman, Benjamin Turner and James Holgate were appointed a committee on resolutions. They reported in favor of organizing the "Stark County Old Settlers' Association," and suggested that only those should be eligible to membership who had resided for twenty-five years or more in the county. The report was adopted and the association was then organized by the election of the following officers: Oliver Whitaker, president; W. H. Butler, secretary; Benjamin Turner, treasurer; Edwin Butler, E. H. Phelps and Dr. W. T. Hall,

executive committee. A motion was then carried to hold the first annual meeting at the courthouse on September 1, 1879.

After the business in hand was disposed of the meeting was turned into a sort of informal social gathering. Charles Myers acted as toast master. Elder Keane spoke on the "Pioneer Ministry;" Norman Butler on "Our Earliest Settlers;" Martin Shallenberger on "The Stark County Bar;" E. H. Phelps on "The Press;" B. F. Thompson on "Education," and Dr. W. T. Hall on "The Physician." The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Stockner, proprietor of the hotel, for his kindness in opening his house to the old settlers and the excellent dinner he had prepared.

Subsequently a vice president was elected for each township, to-wit: Elmira, M. B. Parks; Essex, Jefferson Trickle; Goshen, D. J. Hurd; Osceola, W. W. Winslow; Penn, James Holgate; Toulon, Brady Fowler; Valley, Edward Colgan; West Jersey, Levi Eekley.

Although the date of September 1, 1879, was fixed for the first annual meeting, it was not held until the 3d, when fully one thousand people gathered in the public square at Toulon to attend the first old settlers' picnic ever held in Stark County. After music by the Toulon band, prayer by Rev. J. M. Stickney, and the song "We've Come Home Again," by the Toulon Glee Club, Martin Shallenberger delivered the address of welcome. This was responded to by Gen. T. J. Henderson, who made the principal speech of the occasion. In the business meeting the president, secretary and treasurer were reelected for another year, and Orlando Brace, Henry Perry and Levi Silliman were elected members of the executive committee. On motion of B. F. Thompson, it was decided to erect a monument to Dr. Thomas Hall and a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions. The old settlers responded liberally and a handsome monument was placed over Doctor Hall's resting place in the Toulon Cemetery as a tribute of respect from his old friends and neighbors.

A good sized volume might be written on the doings of the Old Settlers' Association at its annual meetings since it was organized in 1878, but there are two of these annual meetings that stand out with more prominence than others. One was the meeting of 1898, when the log cabin on the public square was raised as a memorial to the county's pioneers. By previous arrangement a number of the pioneer families each contributed a log and on the appointed day here came the Olivers, Turnbulls, Turpers, Holgates, Vandykes, Whitakers, Halls, Hendersons, Thomases, Sheetses, Nowlans, McClenahans, Winslows, Winns and other old time families, each bringing a log.

Madison Winn was master of ceremonies and the cabin was "raised" with all the customs of pioneer days. The meeting of that year was held on August 25th, and after the cabin was raised it was formally dedicated by Gen. T. J. Henderson in an address, the closing paragraphs of which were as follows:

"This log cabin, representing as it does the primitive homes of early settlers of Stark County, has been erected here in this place under the authority of the board of supervisors of this county as a memorial of the men and women who were the first settlers, the pioneers of the county, and I am here, upon the invitation of your association, to dedicate it to their memory.

"The first house of the first white settler in this county was a log cabin, and the homes of all the pioneers who followed for many years were log cabins. The first schoolhouse built was a log schoolhouse. The first marriage celebrated in this county was solemnized in a log cabin. The first white child born in this county was born in a log cabin, and the first courts held in this county were held in a log cabin built by my father, and which was a part of our home for many years. It was therefore a fit and proper thing to do, Mr. President, to erect here, in this public place, a log cabin representing the early homes of our fathers, in memory of their settlement of the county. And I esteem it not only a privilege, but a great honor, now to dedicate this building to the memory of the pioneers of the county, whose names I have mentioned in my address, as well as to those I have omitted through forgetfulness.

"Long may this cabin endure, to perpetuate the memory of the early settlers of Stark County."

Within the cabin are stored a number of relics of early days. Here one may see the old-fashioned spinning wheel, the old brass candlestick and "snuffers," the huge fireplace with its heavy andirons, the straight-backed chair with its splint bottom, the cooking utensils and many other things used by the first settlers of Stark County. A list of the settlers to whom this cabin is dedicated is given in Chapter V of this work.

The other meeting of more than unusual interest was that of 1912, when the old settlers' monument was dedicated, P. G. Rennick, of Peoria, delivering the address. The movement to erect a monument to the county's pioneers was inaugurated the year before. Twelve hundred dollars were raised by popular subscription and the board of supervisors appropriated \$300. With the \$1,500 thus provided a handsome monument of granite was placed on the west side of the



Main Street entrance to the public square. On the north side, facing Main Street, is the inscription: "In Memory of the Pioneers of Stark County," and above the inscription is a kettle suspended from an iron crane, such as were used in the fireplaces of the pioneer cabins. The west side bears the inscription: "In Memory of Stephen A. Douglas, who spoke here October 5, 1858;" the east side is inscribed: "In Memory of Abraham Lincoln, who spoke here October 6, 1858." and on the south is the simple statement: "Dedicated August 28, 1912."

At nearly every meeting of the Old Settlers' Association letters from former residents of the county have been read, expressing regret that the writers were unable to be present and frequently referring to events of former years. Sometimes a letter from some old resident, who had moved away, would be published in some of the Stark County papers. A letter of this character was written from Casper, Wyo., by Percy H. Shallenberger and published in the Stark County Sentinel of March 7, 1900, a short time after his mother's death. In that letter he says:

"I feel it to be a sad duty which I owe to my poor mother to make known to her old friends about Toulon how fondly she had cherished the hope of seeing them just once again; to breathe once more the fragrance of those friendships which had bloomed in the summer of her heart. To every friend who kindly came to cheer her here she told the story of her precious anticipations. How her dear old face would brighten as she told to strangers in this distant land how she hoped to spend her seventieth birthday in old Toulon and be present at the old settlers' meeting. As day by day her little strength went from her, she sat a silent watcher by the bedside of this dying hope. One of her first questions to the doctor when she reached Hastings was as to whether he thought she would live to go back to Illinois in the spring. He kindly told her that he thought she would.

"She wanted to go again to Osceola Grove, to find the site of the old Henderson cabin, where she had learned to know a noble woman and her family, to look again on the old Major McClenahan house, and to walk once more into the old office which her father built.

"The last time she ever went to church, she said on returning that they had sung some old hymns which alone repaid her for the effort (which was no small one) of going. She loved to repeat those which reminded her of other days. One had been sung at the first funeral in Osceola Grove; another had been used at the first Christmas service ever held in Toulon, when old John Prior led the singing and Brother



Woollascraft preached; one had been a favorite with Caleb Flint, and another sung by Mrs. Whitaker at the old temperance meetings. . . . One line upon my mother's tomb should read: 'She loved Stark County and its pioneers.' "

Mrs. Shallenberger was the daughter of Dr. Thomas Hall and the author of the little book, "Stark County and Its Pioneers." The letter written by her son is illustrative of how persons and places with which one has long been associated may become endeared to memory.

The last meeting of the Old Settlers' Association was held on the public square at Toulon, September 8, 1915. A. C. Shallenberger, a native of Stark County and former governor of Nebraska, and Congressman C. U. Stone were among the speakers. For many years it has been the custom for the ladies of the leading churches to serve dinner on the public square on the day of the old settlers' meeting. In 1915 the dinner was served by the ladies of the Baptist Church. Dr. W. T. Hall was elected president of the association and Elmer S. Buffum, secretary.

#### MASONIC FRATERNITY

It is generally conceded that of all the secret orders, Masonry stands first in point of seniority. A tradition of the order says it was introduced into England by Prince Edwin, about 926 A. D., and there are still in existence Masonic documents dated back to 1390. Mother Kilwinning Lodge of Scotland was organized in 1599 and has been in continuous existence since that time, being the oldest known lodge of Masons in the world. In June, 1717, the Grand Lodge of England was instituted and it is the mother of all Masonic bodies in the English-speaking nations.

In 1730 the English Grand Lodge appointed Daniel Coxe, of New Jersey, "provincial grand master of the provinces of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in America." About the same time a provincial grand master was appointed for the New England colonies. Before the close of that year a lodge was established at Philadelphia and one in New Hampshire, each of which claims to be the oldest lodge in what is now the United States.

The first Masonic meeting in Stark County, of which there is any record, was held at Toulon on March 25, 1850, when several members of the fraternity assembled and took the preliminary steps toward the organization of a lodge. On October 20, 1850, the lodge received its charter as "Toulon Lodge No. 93, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons." Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "The names upon the charter

are: Oren Maxfield, William Rose, W. W. Drummond, Ellison Annis, Capt. Henry Butler, William A. Reed and Gen. Samuel Thomas. From these the grand master, C. G. Y. Taylor, appointed W. W. Drummond worshipful master, William Rose, senior warden, and Oren Maxfield, junior warden.

To complete the complement of officers, an election was held on November 19, 1850, when Thomas J. Henderson was chosen secretary; William F. Thomas, treasurer; William A. Reed, senior deacon; Samuel Thomas, junior deacon; Simon S. Heller and Thomas J. Wright, stewards, and C. F. White, tiler.

For many years Toulon Lodge was the only Masonic organization between Peoria and Cambridge. It is the parent of the lodges at Bradford, Lafayette and Wyoming. Notwithstanding the numerous withdrawals to form these lodges, No. 93 still has over one hundred members and is in a prosperous condition. In 1915 Melvin C. Pratt was worshipful master and Walter F. Young was secretary. This lodge once owned its own hall, located on the north side of Main Street, near the northwest corner of the public square, but the building, with all its contents, including the charter and records of the lodge, was destroyed by fire on May 17, 1877.

Lawn Ridge Lodge No. 415 was organized at Lawn Ridge, a little village in the extreme southwest corner of Marshall County, about the close of the Civil war. When the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was built through the eastern part of Stark County and the Town of Speer was established, a majority of the members of the lodge voted to remove to the new town on the railroad, but the name of the lodge was not changed. Lawn Ridge Lodge now has about fifty members, a good hall and is gradually increasing in membership and influence.

Some time in the winter of 1865-66 a few members of the Masonic fraternity living at Wyoming began to discuss the question of organizing a lodge. Informal meetings were held, but no one could be found who felt "suitable proficiency" to do the work of worshipful master and the subject was dropped for the time. Rev. John W. Agard, who had formerly lived in Wyoming, returned about this time, and in him the Masons found a man who could "do the work." A petition, signed by Mr. Agard, Henry A. Holst, Isaac Thomas, W. F. Thomas, T. W. Bloomer, S. K. Conover, G. W. Scott and J. H. Cox, was sent to the grand master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, asking for a dispensation to organize a lodge.

The dispensation was granted and on February 28, 1866, the first meeting of the lodge at Wyoming was convened, with John W. Agard,

worshipful master; W. F. Thomas, senior warden; George W. Scott, junior warden; Henry A. Holst, secretary; S. K. Conover, senior deacon; Thomas W. Bloomer, junior deacon; William N. Brown, tiler.

On October 3, 1866, the Illinois Grand Lodge granted a charter to this lodge, under the title and designation of "Wyoming Lodge No. 479, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons." The first place of meeting was over Holst's drug store. From there it removed to a hall in the Thomas building, next to a building on the corner of Seventh and William streets, which was erected by John W. Agard principally for a Masonic hall. In January, 1882, the lodge again moved its quarters, this time to a hall over Hammond & Walters' store. The membership in 1915 was 125, with F. E. Wickwire, worshipful master, and G. F. Earhart, secretary. Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.

Stark Lodge No. 501, located at Lafayette, was organized early in the year 1866 and was granted a charter the following October. W. B. Smith was the first worshipful master; Dr. Joseph H. Nichols, senior warden; Austin Smith, junior warden. These three officers and the following constituted the charter members: J. S. Atherton, Isaac Grant, H. P. Grant, E. G. Hill, J. M. Jones, William T. Dickinson, E. J. McClenahan, G. H. McClenahan, Thomas W. Ross and John B. Smith. On April 26, 1881, the lodge room, records, furniture and charter were destroyed by fire, and in May a copy of the original charter was issued by the Illinois Grand Lodge. Stark Lodge now has about forty members. The worshipful master for 1915 was Howard Pierce, and the secretary was J. H. White. Regular meetings are on Saturday evening "on or before the full moon."

On the evening of August 16, 1866, the first meeting of the Masonic Lodge at Bradford was held "under dispensation," with James B. Doyle, worshipful master; B. F. Thompson, senior warden; Harmon Phenix, junior warden. Later in the same year a charter was granted by the Illinois Grand Lodge to "Bradford Lodge No. 514, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons." The master and wardens appointed under the dispensation continued to serve until the time for the first regular election according to Masonic usage, and the other officers under the charter were as follows: S. A. Davidson, secretary; George W. Longmire, treasurer; William H. Doyle, senior deacon; Charles B. Foster, junior deacon; John Winslow, tiler. In 1915 this lodge numbered about fifty members, with Dr. W. C. Mitchell, worshipful master, and Thaddeus Ash, secretary.

Wyoming Chapter No. 133, Royal Arch Masons, was first organized in 1866, but no charter was obtained until October 9, 1868. The first officers of the chapter were: John W. Agard, high priest; William Lowman, king; J. M. Rogers, principal sojourner; Charles Weston, captain of the host; M. S. Curtiss, royal arch captain; Alvin Abbott, master of the first veil; S. A. Davis, master of the second veil; Charles Kerr, master of the third veil; George W. Scott, scribe. On October 1, 1915, the chapter numbered over one hundred members, with H. C. Cox, high priest, and Albert W. King, secretary. This is the only Royal Arch chapter in the county and includes among its members several Masons who belong to the blue lodges at Toulon, Lafayette, Speer and Bradford.

#### ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

The Order of the Eastern Star is a "side degree" of the Masonic fraternity, to which the wives, daughters or other near female relatives of Master Masons are eligible. The local bodies are called chapters. The oldest Eastern Star body in Stark County is the chapter at Wyoming, which was first organized on May 29, 1868, under the name of the "Family of the Eastern Star No. 134," with twelve members, to-wit: Rev. John W. Agard, George W. Scott, S. K. Conover, John Wrigley, J. M. Rogers, H. A. Holst, Martha P. Agard, Mary C. Scott, Margaret A. Conover, Ann Wrigley, Harriet Rogers and Rebecca Butler. Mrs. Margaret A. Conover was the first worthy matron and John W. Agard the first worthy patron.

On February 18, 1871, the "family" was reorganized under a charter granted by the Supreme Grand Chapter of New York as Wyoming Chapter No. 52. When the Grand Chapter of Illinois was established, the Wyoming organization was the first to apply for a charter under the new jurisdiction. Strictly speaking, therefore, it should have been No. 1, but by some means other Eastern Star bodies received their charters before this one, which was reorganized under a charter dated October 16, 1877, as Wyoming Chapter No. 8, Order of the Eastern Star.

One incident in the history of Wyoming Chapter of which the members have just cause to feel proud was the visit of Robert Morris, author of the ritual and founder of the Eastern Star degree, who came to Wyoming early in the '70s and instructed the officers and members in the work. This is an honor that few chapters can claim. The membership in 1915 was 162, with Mrs. Alma L. Wead worthy matron and A. J. Adams worthy patron.

Toulon Chapter No. 10 was first organized under a charter dated February 17, 1871, issued by the Supreme Grand Lodge of New York, whence all the early Eastern Star chapters received their authority. The charter and records of the chapter were burned in the fire of May 17, 1877, which destroyed the Masonic Hall, and on October 2, 1877, a new charter was obtained from the Grand Chapter of Illinois. Owing to the burning of the charter and records it is impossible to give a correct list of the charter members. In 1915 the chapter numbered over one hundred members, with Mrs. H. C. Smith, worthy matron; H. C. Smith, worthy patron, and Mrs. Ella Johnston, secretary.

The Eastern Star chapter at Lafayette was instituted on February 1, 1886, with the following charter members: I. G. Foster, A. H. White, T. D. Church, T. W. Ross, J. H. White, Daniel White, Andrew Jackson and their wives. The chapter is still in existence and has a strong membership. There is also an Eastern Star chapter at Bradford.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

The modern order of Odd Fellows owes its origin to a society organized in England in the latter part of the eighteenth century under the name of the "Ancient and Most Noble Order of Bucks," the principal emblem of which was a stag's head with spreading antlers. About 1773 this order declined, but it was revived in a slightly different form, and some four or five years later the words "Odd Fellow" first occurred in the ritual. In 1813 several lodges sent delegates to Manchester and organized the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows, which was the first effort to establish anything like a grand lodge. Soon after this Shakspeare Lodge, No. 1, was organized in New York, but it did not last long. The first permanent lodge in the United States was organized by Thomas H. Wilkey, of Baltimore, in 1819. From that parent lodge Odd Fellowship has spread to all parts of the country and it is now one of the strongest and most influential of the American fraternal orders.

Stark Lodge, No. 96, located at Toulon, was the first Odd Fellows' lodge to be established in Stark County. It was organized on November 8, 1851, with the following charter members: Amos P. Gill, Alexander Monerief, Oliver Whitaker, Thomas J. Wright and William Clark. The charter bears date of October 17, 1851. For more than ten years the lodge grew steadily in numbers and influence, but with the breaking out of the Civil war in 1861 so many of the

members enlisted in the army that it was suspended by order of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1862. Its charter was not taken up, however, and in April, 1866, regular meetings and work were resumed. In 1875 the lodge fitted up a hall in the second story of the bank building of Burge & Company at an expense of over two thousand dollars, which included the cost of the second story of the building. Subsequently the lodge sold its interest in this building to the banking firm and joined with Mr. Sundquist in the erection of the two-story brick structure at the northwest corner of Main and Franklin streets, the south end of the second story being built by the Odd Fellows for a lodge room.

At one time this lodge numbered about one hundred members, but some withdrew to assist in the formation of other lodges in the county, others died and still others moved away, so that in 1915 the membership was but little over sixty. At that time James McCulloch held the office of noble grand and E. B. Redfield that of secretary.

The second Odd Fellows' lodge in the county was organized at Wyoming, under a charter dated October 15, 1857, and officially designated as Wyoming Lodge, No. 244. The charter members of this lodge were: Henry A. Holst, John Hawks, Isaac N. Tidd, U. M. Whiffen, C. W. Brown and W. B. Armstrong. After a somewhat precarious career of six years the lodge surrendered its charter in October, 1863. It was afterward reinstated under the original name and number and the reorganized lodge was held on February 6, 1871, with Henry A. Holst as noble grand.

This is now the strongest Odd Fellows' lodge in the county, having in October, 1915, over one hundred members. In 1913 the lodge erected one of the handsomest business buildings in Wyoming at a cost of \$10,000. The lower floor is devoted to mercantile purposes, while on the second floor is fitted up one of the best appointed lodge halls in this section of the state. C. P. Pratt held the office of noble grand in 1915 and J. M. Earhart was secretary.

Bradford Lodge, No. 579, was organized under a charter dated June 4, 1875. The original members were Cyrus Boeoeck, Joshua Prouty, A. J. Sturm, J. D. Woods, A. M. Hutchinson, H. J. Cosgrove, E. F. Lyman, Edmund Ewing, W. H. Hall and W. A. Holman. Joshua Prouty was the first noble grand. In October, 1915, the lodge numbered 115 members, with William Ribley, noble grand, and J. N. Kitterman, secretary. Regular meetings are held on Friday evening of each week.

On November 20, 1878, a charter was issued by the Grand Lodge



of Illinois to Upton H. Brown, Joseph A. Cisney, David B. Cragin, R. O. Phillips and W. J. Hamilton to organize an Odd Fellows' lodge at Lafayette, to be known as Lafayette Lodge, No. 657. At one time this lodge had about eighty members, but death, removals and withdrawals had reduced the membership in 1915 to about fifty. Alexander Mortison was then noble grand and A. H. White was secretary. Meetings are held on Saturday evenings in the hall over the postoffice.

In December, 1885, S. J. Fox and a few other Odd Fellows living at West Jersey and in the immediate vicinity held a meeting and prepared a petition to the Grand Lodge of Illinois asking for a charter. The petition was granted and West Jersey Lodge was instituted on March 29, 1886, as No. 234, the lodge formerly holding that number having passed out of existence. The charter members were: S. J. Fox, J. H. Emery, W. M. Grey, C. B. Vansickle, N. E. Pomeroy, J. W. Wick and Alexander Ingles. The first meeting place was the hall over Doctor Perry's store. In 1915 this lodge numbered about forty members.

Wyoming Encampment, No. 205, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was first organized on March 24, 1876, as No. 174, with C. F. Hamilton as the first patriarch and the following charter members: J. M. Brown, J. M. Cox, H. J. Cosgrove, I. P. Carpenter, Dennis Guyre, J. D. Woods, T. B. Wall, J. L. Moffitt, John Hawks, D. S. Hewitt and C. F. Hamilton. Meetings are held in the Odd Fellows' new building on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The membership in October, 1915, was about fifty.

#### DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH

This is the ladies' degree of Odd Fellowship. It was founded some years after the original order for the wives, daughters, sisters and mothers of Odd Fellows. The members are generally referred to as "Rebekahs," and the lodges as "Rebekah Degree Lodges." The first Rebekah lodge in Stark County was organized at Lafayette on November 17, 1880, as Stark, No. 110. For some reason this number was afterward given to the Rebekah lodge at Toulon and the Lafayette organization was rechristened Merry Rebekah Lodge, No. 139. The lodge is still in existence and is in a fairly prosperous condition.

Star Rebekah Lodge, No. 110, was instituted at Toulon on February 16, 1882, by Grand Secretary N. C. Nason, of Peoria, assisted by members of the Rebekah lodges at Lafayette and Peoria. After the



ceremony of institution was completed, D. S. Hewitt was installed as noble grand; Mrs. V. B. Thornton, vice grand; J. M. Brown, secretary; Mrs. Howard Stanley, financial secretary, and Mrs. D. Chamberlain, treasurer. In 1915 this lodge numbered about ninety members.

Wyoming Rebekah Lodge, No. 333, although not organized until some years after the lodges at Lafayette and Toulon, is the strongest in the county, reporting 120 members on October 1, 1915. Regular meetings are held by this lodge on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the Odd Fellows' new building. Nearly every Odd Fellows' lodge in the state has its auxiliary Rebekah Degree.

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Shortly after the close of the Civil war the survivors of the Union army organized the Grand Army of the Republic, membership in which was limited to those who had served in the army or navy during the war. Local organizations are called posts. Each state constitutes a "department," in which the highest officer is called the state commander, or department commander. The objects of the Grand Army have been to collect and preserve historic relics and documents pertaining to the war; to mark the location of troops upon the great battlefields, and to aid and assist sick and disabled comrades and their families.

Probably the first Grand Army post in Stark County was the one organized at Elmira under a charter dated March 11, 1867, and was known as No. 244. The original members were Orlando Brace, Robert Turnbull, John Styers, David and William Jackson, Frank Hudson, James Cinnamon, Asa Clark, Marshall Lecox and John McLean. William Jackson was the first commander.

About 1875 the order underwent a reorganization and the Elmira post received a new charter dated March 6, 1876, under which it took the name of James Jackson Post, No. 37, with William Jackson again the first commander. Very few of the original members are left.

DeWolf Post, No. 371, located at Wyoming, was organized some time in the winter of 1867-68. A short time before that Dr. J. C. Copestake was mustered into the Grand Army by Colonel Ford, department adjutant, and upon returning to Wyoming called a meeting of veterans to discuss the question of organizing a post. Doctor Copestake was elected the first commander and the post started off with about thirty charter members. After a few months the organ-

ization was disbanded, but was afterward reorganized with the original name and number. At one time this post numbered over seventy members, but death and removals have weakened it until only a few are left. Regular meetings are no longer held, though the organization is kept up. The membership in October, 1915, was sixteen, with William Holgate commander and Charles F. Hamilton, adjutant.

Dickinson Post, No. 90, was organized at Bradford on February 9, 1881, with Mordecai Bevier as commander. A few years after it was chartered it boasted a membership of seventy-three, but like other posts it has gradually decreased in numbers until there is but a "corporal's guard" left. In 1915 J. N. Kitterman was commander.

W. W. Wright Post, No. 327, was organized at Tonlon under a charter dated August 20, 1883, with twenty-five charter members. The first commander was Capt. John M. Brown of Company K, Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry. At one time this was the strongest Grand Army post in the county, having close to one hundred members. The few that are left hold meetings in the Masonic Hall. The commander in 1915 was Levi Silliman.

There is a pathos in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic that is not to be found in that of any other fraternal order. In their young and vigorous manhood the members left their homes and shops to do battle for the preservation of the Union. The membership being limited to those who served in the army makes it impossible to recruit new members from a succeeding generation and each year on Memorial Day, when these old veterans turn out to decorate the graves of their fallen comrades, the most casual observer cannot help but note that the "line of blue" is growing thinner and more feeble. A few years more and the last of the Grand Army will have answered the last roll call and the patriotic order will be no more.

Nearly every Grand Army post has its auxiliary known as the Women's Relief Corps, which has been a great factor in the charitable work of the order in caring for the poor and disabled soldiers, their widows and orphans. It is composed of the wives and daughters of old soldiers.

#### TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES

As a rule the people of Stark County have always been believers in temperance and the saloon has never done a profitable business anywhere in the county for any continued length of time. The Washington Temperance Society was organized in 1845 and in February, 1848, received a charter from the national organization. It numbered

among its members such men as John W. and Thomas J. Henderson, W. W. Drummond, John A. Williams, Oliver Whitaker, Benjamin Turner, Patrick M. Blair, Martin Shallenberger, Ira Ward, Sr. and Samuel G. Butler. For a time the society was active in advocating the cause of temperance. In 1848 it built a hall, which was afterward owned and occupied by the Masonic lodge until it was destroyed by fire in May, 1877. Politics finally crept into the ranks, brought about dissensions and the society disbanded.

Division No. 3, Sons of Temperance, was organized at Toulon on March 17, 1875, with Levi Silliman as president. Among the members were several who had been members of the Washington Society.

In the early '80s the Independent Order of Good Templars became prominent in the county. Lodges were organized at Toulon, Osceola, Lafayette, Bradford, Castleton and Wyoming. This order appealed to many because it was "secret," though its influence was widely felt while it existed.

The Wyoming Band of Hope, a temperance society, was organized in the spring of 1882, with ten members, among whom were John Hawks, Dr. J. C. Copestake, W. H. Barrett and a number of women who were in favor of keeping saloons out of the town. Its influence was chiefly exerted for that purpose.

#### MISCELLANEOUS SOCIETIES

Scattered over the county there are, or have been in the past, a number of societies and organizations, some of which formed a part of some great order or movement, and others purely local in their character. In the beginning of the preparation of this work, letters were sent to the secretaries of the societies now in existence, but unfortunately for the historian only a few replied. It is therefore impossible to give a detailed history of such organizations.

In the early '70s an order called the Patrons of Husbandry spread over the nation and for a time threatened to become an important influence in political affairs. The principal objects of the organization were to secure a better price for farm products and a lower price for merchandise of all kinds. To this end cooperative stores were started in numerous cities of the country to eliminate the "middleman" by buying direct from the manufacturer and selling direct to the consumer. The local bodies were called "Granges," several of which were formed in Stark County. But, like all such movements, its usefulness was short-lived, owing to the fact that its members could not

agree on the question of whether the order should "go into politics" or not.

The Modern Woodmen of America, an order of which fraternal insurance is the leading feature, has lodges at Wyoming, Toulon, Bradford and Lafayette. The Wyoming Camp, as the local lodges are called, is probably the oldest in the county. It was organized in July, 1886, with E. A. Trimmer, venerable counsel, and J. M. Thomas, Jr., clerk. The camp now occupies the hall formerly occupied by the Odd Fellows and owns the building in which it is located.

Bradford Camp, No. 1156, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized about the same time as the Wyoming Camp and in 1915 numbered 138 members, with C. A. Austin, venerable counsel, and Walter Scholes, clerk. Connected with the Modern Woodmen is a ladies' degree called the Royal Neighbors, an organization of which is auxiliary to every camp in the county.

The Knights of the Maccabees, another fraternal insurance society, have several "tents" in the county; the Mystic Workers, the Court of Honor, the Sons of Veterans, and a few other fraternal societies are also represented by organizations in most of the leading towns.

## CHAPTER XVII

### MISCELLANEOUS HISTORY

PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER—FIRST THINGS—PRICES AND WAGES—LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS AT TOULON—THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD—FOUNTAIN WATKINS TELLS A STORY—A RESOLUTION—THE FIRST POLITICAL CAMPAIGN—INDIAN RETALIATION—HUNTING IN EARLY DAYS—THE MORMON PROPHET—A POLITICAL ECHO.

In the early days on the frontier, when the dwelling usually consisted of one room and every inch of space had to be utilized to the best possible advantage, it was a common occurrence for the prudent housewife to provide some sort of receptacle for such small articles as were not required for daily use. Such a receptacle was called a "catch all," for the reason that it contained a varied assortment of little things that were likely to be in the way elsewhere. This chapter on Miscellaneous History is somewhat like the pioneer housewife's "catch all," inasmuch as it is made up of events that do not properly belong to the subjects treated in the other chapters and yet are of historic interest. In presenting these miscellaneous events some repetitions may occur, but this cannot well be avoided, and in many instances this repeated reference to some incident of early days will help to refresh the memory of the reader.

#### FIRST THINGS

The first white man to settle in Stark County was Isaac B. Essex. His cabin, built in April, 1829, was the first civilized habitation, and his son, born in 1829, was the first white child born in the county. Wilson Smith was born in what is now West Jersey Township the same year, a little after the Essex child.

The first death was that of a little child of David Gregory, and the first marriage was that of Harris W. Miner and Miss Nancy Gross, which was solemnized some time in the winter of 1831-32, while Stark was still a part of Putnam County.

The first land entries were made at the land offices at Quincy or Galena, until a land office was opened at Dixon, about 1840. The first

frame house was the store room of Whitney Smith at Wyoming, which was built in the fall of 1837. A small frame building or two were built at Lafayette either that fall or the following spring.

The first mill was built by Harmon Leek in 1833 or 1834 on the Spoon River, near the road from Wyoming to Toulon. The first bridge in the county was built over the Spoon River in the fall of 1839, not far from Leek's Mill.

The first postoffice was established at the house of Isaac B. Essex in 1833, but was later removed to Wyoming, and the first schoolhouse was raised on July 4, 1834, in Essex Township.

Jesse W. Heath, who opened a small store at Wyoming, was probably the first merchant, Dr. Eliphalet Ellsworth was the first resident physician, and W. W. Drummond the first lawyer to locate in the county.

The first railroads were built through the county in 1871 and the first ear load of grain was shipped from Toulon by Charles Myers, who built the first grain warehouse.

The first newspaper was published in January, 1856; the first religious organization was Adam Perry's Methodist class, which was formed in 1835; the first camp meeting was held in the summer of 1840, and the first coal was mined in 1855.

#### PRICES AND WAGES

Much has been said in recent years about the high cost of living, but, when compared with conditions of three-quarters of a century ago, the present day citizen has no cause for complaint. From old account books kept by a merchant of McLean County, Ill., from 1830 to 1835, it is learned that unbleached muslin then sold for from 20 to 30 cents per yard; cambric, 40 cents; calico, 37½ cents; bed ticking, 40 to 75 cents; coffee, 25 to 40 cents per pound; tea, \$1 to \$1.25; salt, 3 cents; sugar, 10 to 12½ cents; nails, 12½ to 15 cents; tacks, 25 cents per paper; molasses, 37½ per gallon, and whisky, 50 cents. As the conditions in McLean County and what is now the County of Stark were very much the same, it is fair to presume that the early settlers here paid similar prices for their goods. Then a tin pail holding a gallon and a half sold for 75 cents; pint tin cups, 15 cents; and a set of six common glass tumblers, 75 cents.

On the other hand the farmer sold his wheat for from 40 to 50 cents per bushel; corn, 10 to 25 cents; potatoes, 20 to 30 cents; bacon, 3½ to 5 cents per pound; butter, 10 to 15 cents, and other farm

products in proportion. Not only were the prices low, but the farmer had to haul his produce several miles to market, often over roads where in bad weather an empty wagon would be about all two horses could draw. Farm hands worked for from \$8 to \$12 per month and often split fence rails for 25 cents per 100. Notwithstanding the low prices they received and the high prices of most of the stuff they were compelled to buy, the farmers of Stark County kept on with their labors, improved their farms, developed the country, and in time grew sufficiently wealthy to surround themselves with most of the comforts and some of the luxuries of modern civilization. When one stops to consider the obstacles the pioneers overcame and the results they accomplished, he cannot help but agree with Robert Burns that

"Buirldy chieils and clever hizzies  
Are bred in sic a way as this is."

#### LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS

The year 1858 is memorable in Illinois history for the joint political discussions between Abraham Lincoln, afterward President of the United States, and Stephen A. Douglas, called by his partisan admirers the "Little Giant." The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill only four years before had opened anew the subject of slavery. Douglas had voted for the passage of the bill and in the debates with Mr. Lincoln he "met a foeman worthy of his steel." Many of the Stark County people tried to have one of the joint discussions held at Toulon, but prior engagements defeated the plan, though the two great orators, on their way to one of their appointments, each favored Toulon with a speech.

Douglas arrived on October 5, 1858, and was the guest of the hotel kept by B. A. Hall, which was democratic headquarters. There were then no railroads in Stark County, the "Little Giant" came in an open carriage, despite the rain, and was accompanied by Lieutenant-Governor Payne, of Ohio. At the hotel he was greeted by a large number of enthusiastic democrats and was welcomed by Martin Shallenberger in a short but appropriate address, to which Mr. Douglas responded briefly. After dinner he was escorted to the public square, where a platform had been erected for the speaker. So dense was the crowd that some time was spent in getting through it to the speaker's stand, many crowding forward to shake Mr. Douglas' hand. Although hoarse from his long campaign and the rain was falling, he soon



warmed to his subject and the multitude stood for an hour or more listening with rapt attention to his utterances.

The next day dawned and it was still raining, but the republicans seemed determined to make a greater showing than the democrats had done on the day previous. At an early hour delegations came pouring in from every township in the county, and even from the adjoining counties. It could easily have been seen, by the most casual observer, that if Douglas was the idol of the democracy, Lincoln was the popular hero of the republican party, which was still in its swaddling clothes. This vast assemblage rendezvoused on the Kewanee road, a short distance north of the town, to await the coming of the speaker. Oliver Whitaker acted as chief marshal. Forming the people in a hollow square, he instructed them to remain silent until he gave the signal for applause. Mr. Lincoln's carriage approached at a moderate gait, owing to the condition of the road, Mr. Whitaker waved his hand and the cheer that went up was so spontaneous and deafening that the horses attached to the carriage were frightened to such an extent that the safety of the occupants of the carriage was threatened. Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "Order being restored, the various delegations paid their respects to Mr. Lincoln and the ladies on horseback, decorated with state badges, rode up. The one representing Illinois was provided with a wreath of leaves and flowers, with which it is presumed she meant to crown or encircle the man they delighted to honor, but Mr. Lincoln very quietly said: 'Wear it yourself, dear, they become you better than me.'"

A procession was then formed—claimed by many to be the largest ever witnessed in the county up to that time—and Mr. Lincoln was escorted to the Virginia Hotel on East Main Street. Here he declined any formal greeting and remained in his room until dinner was ready. After dinner he was escorted to the public square, where he spoke from the stand that Mr. Douglas had spoken from the day before. And, as at the Douglas meeting, the audience stood in the rain to listen to him who two years later was called to the highest office in the gift of the people.

In the campaign of 1860 these two men were the leading opposing candidates for the Presidency. Lincoln was elected and when the Southern States began to adopt ordinances of secession Mr. Douglas laid aside all former differences of opinion and became a firm supporter of the administration. As a "war democrat" he gained in popularity and many of his warmest friends were the most sincere mourners when the telegraph in April, 1865, flashed the message to

the country: "Lincoln has been assassinated." In 1912 the Old Settlers' Association erected a monument upon the site of the platform from which these two great men spoke more than half a century before. The monument is described in another chapter.

#### THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

About the time of the passage of the bill known as the "Missouri Compromise" was passed by Congress in 1820, a number of persons throughout the free states began to act in concert in passing runaway negroes from one point to another on their way to Canada, where they would be beyond the reach of the Fugitive Slave Law. Such persons acted with great secrecy at first, but in a few years the operation of the system became pretty well known and was given the name of the "Underground Railroad." One of the best organized stations in the State of Illinois was the one at Galesburg, the route to which lay through Peoria and Stark counties.

Among the early settlers of Stark County were several who were opposed to slavery and, although they were members of church and good citizens, did not consider that they were doing wrong to violate the Fugitive Slave Law and assist the poor black refugees on their way to freedom. One of these was Rev. S. G. Wright, as the following extracts from his diary will show: "February 6, 1843—Another fugitive from slavery came along, making twenty-one that have passed through this settlement on their way to Canada. May 22, 1843—Saturday went to Emery settlement, but found so strong an antipathy against abolitionists that few would hear me preach, so I went on and preached at Toulon Sabbath morning. May 30—The grand jury found a bill against me and my elder, W. W. Webster, for harboring runaway slaves. June 24—Witness in case of *The People vs. Cross*, for harboring runaway slaves."

The last extract refers to the case of Rev. John Cross, who was indicted in Knox County for aiding in the escape of fugitive negroes. Before the case came to trial, Mr. Cross removed to Bureau County and a deputy sheriff was sent to arrest him and bring him back to Knoxville. Mr. Cross not only agreed to go willingly, but also furnished his team and light wagon for the trip. Leaving Bureau County on Saturday, they reached Oliver Whitaker's, at Osceola Grove, that night and Mr. Cross preached there the next morning. Before this he had been arrested and confined in the jail at Galesburg, but had been bailed out by some of his abolitionist friends. In his trial at Knoxville in 1843 he was acquitted.

Elias and Nehemiah Wycoff came to Stark County before it was organized and settled in the Spoon River Valley, not far from the Peoria County line. They soon became identified with the Underground Railroad and no doubt furnished aid to many a runaway slave. In one of his pioneer sketches published in the old Stark County Sentinel, W. H. Adams tells the following story, as it was given to him by Fountain Watkins, the principal actor, who was known as "the laughing abolitionist," on account of his sunny disposition:

"Some time late in the '40s Eli Wilson brought to my place a likely young darkey, who said he had been a waiter on a Mississippi River steamboat. He stayed with us for about a week and played with the boys in the woods. Some of our kind friends at Farmington sent me word one evening to push the boy ahead, as hunters were on his track. It would not answer to start that night, for it would be certain to invite pursuit. I finally concluded to wait until morning and during the night studied out a plan how the old woman and me would go visiting the next day on horseback. As the fall winds were kinder hard on the women's faces, it was no more than natural for her to have on a veil. So the next morning I saddled a gray team I owned and had Peter put on one of my wife's dresses and a veil, and helped him to mount the horse with the side-saddle, just as though it was my wife. I mounted the other horse and admonished Peter not to talk unless I spoke to him.

"We struck out, taking a road that led in the direction of the east side of the mound, west of the Town of Elmwood. The road across the Kickapoo bottoms was lined on each side with a dense growth of high weeds and brush. While in this place we saw a team coming toward us with George Pierce and John Dalton in the wagon. I had been told that Dalton had been blowing around that if he ever caught me 'running off' a nigger he would have me arrested. I pulled out to the right and Peter to the left to let the wagon pass. I said 'Good morning,' and they said 'Good morning,' but we had not gone more than a rod or two when I heard George say: 'I'll be d——d if I don't believe Fount has a nigger with him.' Here the road made a sharp turn, the ground was soft, and didn't we ply the bud and let the horses go until we reached the high ground at the mound. Here we pulled rein and looked back. Not a soul was in sight. I told Pete that it was twelve miles to the next timber and we had to travel, as there was danger of them cusses following us.

"We reached the hazel brush south of Rochester, on Spoon River, where I hid Pete and started for town to find something to eat for the

horses, the nigger and myself. Meeting Dave Frisby, I did not pretend to notice him, but he recognized me and said: 'Hello Fount! How do you do? Where are you going?' I replied: 'Just down here to find a girl; my wife is not very well.' To this Dave replied with a significant smile, 'You don't want a girl; you have a runaway somewhere in the brush and are on the hunt of something to eat. I know you, old fox, you can't fool Dave Frisby. How are the wife and babies, any how?' I said: 'Dave, where have you been?' He replied that he was in business in Rochester, and then came back to the subject of the fugitive: 'Say, Fount, you've got a nigger hid somewhere, and don't you deny it. Do you see that house over there? That is where Elias Wycoff lives. I board there. He is a brother to Nehemiah Wycoff, who lives just across the line in Stark County, and both are sound abolitionists.' I said: 'Dave, Wycoff may be all right, but you always said it was not right to help slaves get away from their masters.' He replied: 'Fount, you know I have also always said slavery was wrong; then it is all right to set them free. Here's my hand on that.'

"I knew I could tie to Dave, so we shook hands and I went with him to the house. Mr. Wycoff was not at home, but was expected in a short time. The horses were cared for and Frisby and I went out to Pete's hiding place. I gave the signal and 'the woman' stepped out. We introduced 'her' to the family and to Mr. Wycoff, who said he would be delighted to help anyone out of bondage. Pete and I had supper and soon afterward I informed our host that 'the lady' wished to make some change in her dress. She was shown into a room and I followed. Said I: 'Pete, take off' your dress.' Wycoff was somewhat surprised and asked: 'Is that a man?' I said it was, that he had on one of my wife's dresses and that I wanted to take it home with me, because dresses were not overly plenty at our house. Peter slipped out of his dress and stood before us in a suit of broadcloth. Everybody laughed, and as soon as it was dark I started for home, leaving the fugitive in the care of his new-found friends and that night Mr. Wycoff passed him along to the next station on the 'Great Southern & Canadian Underground Railroad.'"

Slavery was abolished by President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and many persons born since that time can hardly realize that it was once a "divine institution" in the minds of some of the citizens of the United States. The above account of the Underground Railroad has been included in this work that the present generation may form some idea of the conditions that existed when the

first white men settled in Stark County. They were not law-breakers, but many of them believed that no one man had a moral right to own another, and that it was a righteous act to violate the Fugitive Slave Law. Sincere in these convictions, they did what they could in their humble way to assist the black slave on his way to liberty.

#### A RESOLUTION

For several years after the close of the Civil war, political sentiment was very much divided over the enfranchisement of the negroes and the adoption of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the Federal Constitution. The subject came before the board of supervisors of Stark County at the June term in 1866, when Mr. Ackley, of Penn Township, presented the following resolution:

"Whereas, section 1 of the constitutional amendment declares that slavery or involuntary servitude shall not exist in the United States or any of the territories thereof, and section 2 provides that Congress shall have power to enforce the foregoing section by appropriate legislation, and

"Whereas, the 'Civil Rights Bill' was that appropriate legislation, therefore be it

"Resolved that Andrew Johnson, in refusing to sign, and in vetoing said bill, and in other acts has rendered himself unworthy the confidence or respect of all loyal and patriotic men."

Mr. Parks, of Elmira Township, moved that the resolution be indefinitely postponed, but the motion was lost. The resolution was then adopted by a vote of six to two, Mr. Parks and Mr. Rogers, of Valley Township, voting in the negative. The incident is here mentioned to show the intensity of feeling that pervaded Stark County and how neighbors would differ in opinion. Andrew Johnson was then President of the United States and Messrs. Parks and Rogers felt that it was presumption on the part of a board of county supervisors to criticize his official acts or attempt to point out to him the course he should pursue. The majority thought differently, however, and placed themselves on record accordingly.

#### THE FIRST POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

As stated in Chapter VI, the first election for county officers was held at the house of Elijah McClenahan. The settlers in what are now Essex, Penn and Osceola townships got the impression that the little circle "at the hub," known as the "Henderson men," was

organizing to parcel out the offices. As a matter of fact, the emoluments of any office in the county at that period would hardly pay the incumbent for the labor he would be required to perform in the discharge of his official duties. But political honors appealed to the average citizen then much as they do in the present day, and the voters in the "out townships" decided to put up a fight in opposition to "the ring."

The Henderson men were chiefly from Ohio, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Opposed to them were the Yankees of Osceola Grove and Penn Township and the Scotch of Elmira. Among the latter was James Moore, who was a shrewd individual and well calculated for a political leader. He went to Osceola, where he enlisted the cooperation of E. S. Brodhead, a brother-in-law of Oliver Whitaker, and the two started out to organize their forces for the fray. In what is now Goshen Township they visited Ruloff Parrish and Conrad Emery, who had been decided on as one of the judges of election. That evening a little caucus was held and the next day the two missionaries held a meeting at Lafayette, where they promised Jonathan Hodgson the office of county commissioner. This settled matters so far as that part of the county was concerned, Hodgson's friends becoming active supporters of the movement to down the Henderson men.

The next point was Massillon Precinct, or West Jersey Township, though it was not then known by either of those names. Here the Eckleys, Dunns, Websters, Wycoff's, Trickle and their neighbors gathered and Stephen Trickle was decided upon as another available candidate for county commissioner. Thus the links in the chain were being welded. Moore and Brodhead next went to Wyoming, where the latter was well acquainted, and where the support of General Thomas and his friends was secured. Then touching the settlements along the way, the two men returned to Osceola Grove, where a monster "mass meeting," attended by probably twenty-five voters, was held. The "slate" was then completed by the selection of Minott Silliman for treasurer, Jesse W. Heath for recorder, Oliver Whitaker for clerk, Augustus A. Dunn for sheriff, Calvin Winslow for the third commissioner, Dr. Thomas Hall for coroner and John W. Agard for surveyor.

Now came the work of "getting out the vote." Teams and wagons were pressed into service, every man was assigned to his post, and the women folks were persuaded to make a flag to be carried at the head of the procession when it moved upon the polls at McClenahan's. This flag is thus described by Mrs. Shallenberger:



"What matters it that bed linen brought from across the sea must serve for hunting, a blue silk handkerchief be transformed into an azure field for the stars, and a pair of genuine English cavalry pants supply the scarlet? It was a new combination and entirely successful, the result being a grand United States flag that seemed to inspire the men with all sorts of patriotic fervor."

The Henderson men, among whom were the McClenahans, Perrys, Smiths, the several members of the Essex family, and their allies, were inclined to look with derision on the "Pennamites," as they called the Moore and Brodhead forces, and had published the threat that none of them should ever hold office in the new county. But they reckoned without their host. Even in that day "organization" counted for something in political campaigns, and the Pennamites had an organization that proved to be invulnerable when the final test came.

The morning of the first Monday in April (election day) dawned clear and bright and each faction began the work of marshaling its hosts. Wagons drawn by four horses and filled with voters left Osceola Grove at an early hour for the voting place. Among the Scotch settlers were several musicians, who brought their instruments with them, and as the procession moved along the sound of "pipe and pibroch" echoed through the glen." At every settlement fresh detachments of men joined the ranks, and by the time they reached McClenahan's the Pennamites were sufficiently strong to awaken some alarm among their opponents. As they approached the voting place with their flag flying, the band playing, some in wagons, some on horseback and some on foot, James McClenahan is said to have made the inquiry: "Where in God's name did all these men come from?"

Colonel Henderson, the acknowledged leader of the opposition, was seated upon the fence, calmly watching the arrival of the Pennamites. When all were assembled he mounted the "horse-block," read the act of Legislature calling the election, and nominated Doctor Richards, McClenahan's brother-in-law, for chairman of the meeting. This proposition was promptly voted down by the Pennamites, who then put forward the name of William Parks, who was elected after some confusion. Then the rest of the Moore and Brodhead program was carried out with something of the "steam roller" methods of modern politics. Whitney Smith and John Finley, the men previously selected, were installed as judges of the election and the "slate" went through without a hitch. As soon as the result of the election was declared, the victors went to the grove, where they found their horses and vehicles all safe, and then commenced a jubilant



demonstration over their victory. Says Mrs. Shallenberger: "They took out their instruments of music and flung their flag to the breeze, driving up and down the road in the most exultant fashion. In the first flush of victory they surely forgot to be magnanimous toward the disappointed. But now, after thirty-five changeful years have swept by, and heads are white and bowed that then carried the honors of early manhood, perhaps too proudly, there are those who remember with a twinge of remorse, the bitter reflection of Colonel Henderson, uttered in the moment of defeat: 'I made the d——d little county, and this is my reward.' In view of all that he had accomplished for us, they freely say, we were ungrateful. But they did not reason thus that night in 1839, but loading up every straggler they could find, commenced a sort of triumphant march toward Wyoming."

Upon arriving at Wyoming the cavaleade drew up in front of Whitney Smith's store, and as many of the men had not eaten anything since early morning, Mrs. Smith began bustling about to prepare something for them to eat, while Whitney brought out a good-sized demi-john filled with whisky to furnish the "liquid refreshments." While the demi-john was passing from hand to hand—or rather from mouth to mouth—among the Osceola men in the wagon, some one hit the horses a cut with the whip, the purpose being to carry off Smith's whisky. But some of the more sober ones in the party insisted that this was not a fair deal and that the demi-john should be returned to its owner, to whom it was explained that the whole thing was merely intended as a joke.

There had been no lack of whisky during the day and the fresh supply received at Wyoming put the men in good shape to finish up the day's celebration in gorgeous style. On the way back to Osceola Grove they stopped long enough to serenade several of the settlers, receiving more to eat and drink. It was almost daylight the next morning when the delegation reached Osceola and some of the best citizens of that little community did not get the cobwebs out of their brain all that day.

The next year came the presidential campaign, when the whigs, under the leadership of Colonel Henderson, carried the county for Gen. William H. Harrison by a majority of thirty-three over Martin Van Buren, the democratic candidate. The victory for "Old Tippecanoe," as General Harrison was fondly designated, took some of the sting out of the defeat at the first county election the year before.

## INDIAN RETALLATION

When Henry Seeley built his cabin at "Seeley's Point," in what is now Penn Township, in 1834, some of the Pottawatomi Indians were still living along Indian Creek and a portion of the tribe for several years after that date came regularly to winter at Walnut Grove. Mr. Seeley and his family kept on good terms with these Indians, and as Mr. Seeley himself understood their language, he traded freely with them. In 1835 he raised a good corn crop and when the band came to the winter quarters in the grove that year he sold them corn for themselves and ponies. One day, while Mr. Seeley was attending to some business in Peoria, an Indian came to his cabin with a large sack, which he wanted filled with shelled corn, tendering a silver half dollar in payment.

Mr. Seeley's father, a man well advanced in years and not physically strong, was the only man about the place. After conferring with his daughter-in-law he decided that it was better to let the Indian have the corn, although the 50 cents was less than half its value. When the sack was filled the Indian threw it across his pony and departed, no doubt laughing in his sleeve at the trick he had played on a white man. A few days later he returned with the same sack, or one very much like it, and another half dollar. But this time Mr. Seeley was at home. He was not afraid of the "Big Injun" and promptly informed him that it would take two such coins to purchase the corn. This time the Indian, not having the requisite sum of money, was compelled to return to his people empty handed. Mr. Seeley noticed that the red man was quite sullen as he mounted his pony and knew that in some way the Indian would endeavor to get even for the insult.

About a year later, while the Indians were encamped at Walnut Grove, Mr. Seeley and a neighbor, one of the Sturms boys, rode over one day to see how their Pottawatomi friends were getting along. At that time there was a French trading post not far from the Indian camp, where gunpowder and whisky were among the leading commodities offered for sale. As Mr. Seeley and his companion approached the camp it was plain to be seen that the Indians had been to the trading post. The discordant shouts and yells told as plainly as words that the Indians were on a spree, while now and then would be heard the report of firearms.

It was a custom among the Indians that when they wanted to "go on a drunk" one man was either drafted or volunteered to stay sober to prevent the drunken ones from killing each other. Mr.

Seeley and his friend carried their rifles and rode forward to the camp, knowing that the sober Indian would probably be able to control those who were drinking, or, if not, they could take care of themselves. Upon entering the camp a group of half-drunken savages came up to them with a small cask of "fire-water" and invited the white men to join them in a social drink. Sturms first took the little keg and held it to his mouth for a few moments as though drinking, after which it was passed to Mr. Seeley. But just as he was raising it to his lips the Indian to whom he had refused the corn the year before rushed out of the crowd, snatched the keg and exclaimed: "Mean white man, no sell Indian corn, he no have fire-water." The insult of the preceding year was wiped out.

While all this was taking place the squaws were busy gathering and hiding the arms, for fear that their men folks would either assault the white men, who had been kind to them, or injure each other in a drunken brawl. The keg of liquor was quickly carried away by the roisterers to a neighboring thicket and Mr. Seeley rode away without fear of any further enmity on the part of the Indian.

#### HUNTING IN EARLY DAYS

When the first settlers came to Stark County game of all kinds was plentiful and the pioneer depended more upon his rifle than upon his flocks and herds to furnish the family's supply of meat. Boys were early taught to shoot and it was no unusual thing for a twelve-year-old lad to bring in a wild turkey or report that he had killed a deer which was too heavy for him to carry. Among those who achieved distinction as hunters were the Sturms boys—Henry, Nicholas, Samuel, Matthias and Simon—all sons of Matthias, who settled in the county in 1834. Clad in rough frontier garb and armed with the old Kentucky "hammered barrel, hair triggered" rifle, they knew every "deer lick" in the country round. Henry Sturms used to say that he had killed as many as thirty deer in one week and dragged them home by tying them to the tail of his horse.

They never carried their rifles on Sunday, and one Sunday morning, about 1845, while Henry Sturms and one of his cousins were returning home from church, they discovered a large buck, slightly wounded, lying in the water of Spoon River, where he had doubtless crept to conceal himself from his pursuers. Henry leaped from a bluff some eight or ten feet high, landed squarely upon the buck's shoulders, seized him by the horns and forced his nostrils under water,

holding him there by main strength until he was almost suffocated. The deer was then despatched with a heavy pocket knife, such as every frontiersman usually carried, and the two youngsters dragged the deer home, which was but a short distance from the place where they found him.

But, while deer and such animals were hunted for food, there was an occasional wolf hunt for the purpose of lessening the number of these animals that were preying upon the few domestic animals of the settlers. Two or three years after Isaac B. Essex and his associates settled along the Spoon River, in what is now Essex Township, they were invited to join with those living about Princeville, Peoria County, in a wolf hunt. Minott Silliman, Benjamin Smith, David Cooper, the Miners, Reeds, Daniel Prince and several others joined in the hunt and a number of wolves were killed. Another great wolf hunt was "pulled off" in 1845, in which over one hundred settlers participated. Harvey L. Ross, while still in his "teens," caught twelve wolves one season in steel traps set near the carcass of a dead horse.

#### EARLY OUTLAWRY

In the preceding chapter mention is made of the Mutual Protection Society, which was organized to protect the settlers against the depredations of bandits and horse thieves. The history of every frontier shows that such settlements have been the resort of men who would rather live by robbery than by honest labor. Then the reign of law was in its infancy, courts and prisons were at some distance from the "margin of civilization," and the outlaws stood a much better chance of escaping the clutches of the law. Early in the nineteenth century the notorious John A. Murrell organized what was probably the first regular chain of horse thieves and highwaymen, which extended from the Ohio Valley to the Southern States, where there was then a great demand for horses. A stolen horse could be concealed throughout the day in some convenient thicket and at night passed on to the next station in the chain, until the market was reached.

Even after the death of Murrell, gangs continued to operate in Indiana, Illinois and some of the adjoining states. John Driscoll and his two sons—William and David; John Brodie and three of his sons; Samuel Aiken and his three sons; William K. Bridge and Norton B. Boyce; Jack and William Britt, were some of the gang leaders that managed the affairs of the outlaws about the time Stark County was settled. They were the men who planned the robberies, provided

alibis for those who were so unfortunate as to be arrested, furnished hiding places for the stolen booty, laid out the route the stolen horse was to be taken, concealed the members of the gang from the officers of the law, and sometimes took a hand in the robberies themselves.

Some twenty-five or thirty years ago, W. H. Adams, in one of his "Pioneer Reminiscences," published in the Brimfield News, tells of three men who came to John Lafferty's in April, 1838, pretending that they were looking for land. Mr. Lafferty had come from Ohio two years before and located in Knox County, not far from the present boundary of Stark. On the night of May 1, 1838, the "land buyers" disappeared and the next morning Mr. Lafferty discovered that a team of fine black horses he owned was missing. About the same time John Miller, Sewell Smith and Robert Colwell reported that they had lost horses. A posse was soon organized to trace the thieves. The balance of the story is thus told by Mr. Adams:

"Meantime one Roantree, of Henderson Grove, arrived at Miller's house with the information that two horses were in charge of a boy at Washburn's Grove. John McCoy was sent to investigate, identified the horses as Lafferty's, and then started in search of the posse, meeting them on the way to Washburn's. Arriving there, they relieved the boy of the horses and began making preparations to hang him. The boy was greatly alarmed, of course, and Mr. Miller, taking advantage of his fright, led him to one side and promised to intercede for him if he would give information that would lead to the capture of the thieves. This the young fellow was glad to do, and when questioned by Lafferty and Colwell, told them that the rendezvous was in the Winnebago swamp. That night the party started for the swamp, taking the boy with them to act as guide, and about daylight came to a spot near the rendezvous. Just before sunrise one of the robbers came out of the brush hut and was captured by John Miller. Two others, alarmed by the scuffle, jumped from the hut and attempted to make their escape, but were overtaken and captured.

"The horses and saddles were then collected and the victors and vanquished proceeded to another grove to try the robbers. The court was organized, the boy's statement was noted, each of the settlers identified his horses, after which a vote was taken upon the guilt or innocence of the prisoners. The verdict was unanimous in favor of their guilt and the trio were hanged. At Spring Creek, on the way home, the posse was fired upon by friends of the men they had just executed, but no one was hurt. The fire was returned briskly and thus ended the adventure of the early days of May, 1838.

"In June following, Colwell, Joe Drummond and some others happened to pass that way and one of the party called attention to three bodies swinging from the branch of a tree. Colwell said: 'I wonder if them aint Injuns hung by the whites during the Black Hawk war?' Drummond, turning to him, said: 'Dad, them's horse thieves; you didn't shoot 'em, you hung 'em,' to which Colwell merely replied: 'I guess they're dead,' and the party left the scene of the tragedy."

Once or twice a year, owing to the amount of business done by the gang, an "adjuster" would pass up the Spoon River Valley to pay each member of the gang his share of the ill-gotten gains. Charles S. Payne, of Wyoming, frequently saw this man and described him as "a gentleman of very solemn demeanor, wearing green spectacles, and talked very little."

Mr. Adams also relates another incident of an attempted robbery in 1844. A trader named Smith, located at Rochester, had about two hundred cattle, which he wanted taken to the Chicago market. As there were no railroads at that time, he employed John Emery, a member of one of Stark County's pioneer families, to drive the cattle across the country. Accompanied by John Pratz, Michael Smith and Elias Lafferty, Mr. Emery started for Chicago with the cattle. At the old tavern known as the Nine Mile House, on the Desplaines River, he sold a part of the herd, receiving therefor \$200 in gold coin. Upon reaching Chicago he found out that he could sell the cattle to better advantage by having them slaughtered and disposing of the dressed beef. Smith, Pratz and Lafferty returned home, leaving Emery in Chicago.

While all this was going on some of the Britt gang were watching Mr. Emery's movements. When his companions left him alone in Chicago the Britts surmised that he would travel home alone after the cattle were sold, carrying the money with him, and began making their preparations to relieve him of it. The cattle were slaughtered, the meat sold, and Mr. Emery, with the \$200 in gold and \$1,100 in paper currency, started for Rochester. The first night out he passed at the Nine Mile House, where he met Jack and Bill Britt. The next morning Emery and the two Britts rode together to Paw Paw Grove, where Jack stopped while Emery and Bill rode on to Princeton, where they passed the night. At Princeton Mr. Emery was introduced to a woman and her son, from Meadville, Pa., who were on their way to Carson Berfield's, in Stark County, and offered to guide them the rest of the way.



That evening two strangers, well dressed and mounted upon fine horses, arrived at the hotel in Princeton. They were the two members of the gang assigned to the work of getting Mr. Emery's money. Not being apprised of the arrangement that had been made between Mr. Emery and the woman, the two highwaymen were surprised the next morning to see a carriage drawn up in front and Mr. Emery's horse saddled ready for the start. They hurried to the stable and saddled their own horses, but were again surprised to see the lady and her son come out of the hotel and greet Mr. Emery as an acquaintance. After she had stepped into the carriage she asked the cattle drover to hand her his satchel and overcoat, which he did, and then turned to mount his horse. Just then the two would-be robbers appeared upon the scene. It seems that the landlady, suspicious of the two well dressed strangers, had warned Mr. Emery and told some of the guests of her suspicions. These guests were now on hand to see what was going to happen. When Mr. Emery gave the woman in the carriage his overcoat and satchel, one of the robbers asked: "Are you going with them folks?"

Mr. Emery answered in the affirmative and then drawing his money from his pocket said: "Here is over one thousand dollars in paper, and here (drawing a purse from another pocket) are \$200 in gold. I would like to see you try to get it. As soon as you came in last night I saw by Bill Britt's actions what your business was and knew who set you dirty, contemptible, thieving skunks on my track. You can follow me if you think it will be healthy, or you can go back to Paw Paw Grove and tell Jack Britt that you failed to get my money. Then you and the Britts can all go to hell together."

As Mr. Emery uttered the last words he swung himself into his saddle, gallantly lifted his hat to the assembled guests in front of the hotel and rode away, the carriage following. The two crestfallen bandits watched him for a few minutes and then departed in the opposite direction. Mr. Emery reached Rochester in good time and turned the money over to his employer.

#### THE MORMON PROPHET

It may not be generally known to the people of Stark County that Joseph Smith, the founder and first prophet of the Mormon Church, was captured in this county a short time before his tragic death in the jail at Carthage, the county seat of Hancock County, Ill. When the Mormons were driven from Missouri they went to a beauti-



ful bluff, overlooking the Mississippi River, in Hancock County, where they founded the City of Nauvoo. Robberies and murders committed in Iowa were traced to Mormons and the people along the Mississippi in that state and Illinois began to clamor for their removal. Matters finally grew so hot that in the early spring of 1844 Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum sought safety in flight.

Working their way northeastward, they reached the old state road running through Goshen Township. On this road was a schoolhouse that overlooked the old Indian camp on Indian Creek. One morning at recess a fine covered carriage drawn by a team of beautiful gray horses drew up in front of the schoolhouse. In the carriage were two men, both wearing silk hats and showing other evidences of prosperity, who inquired the way to Osceola. Almeron M. Harris, afterward a captain in a Missouri regiment in the Civil war, was one of the scholars who happened to know the road to Osceola. Covered carriages were rare in those days and the school children spent some time in speculating who the rich gentlemen were who could afford such a turnout.

Not long after the carriage had passed the pursuing officers arrived and also made inquiries at the schoolhouse. Young Harris described the men and the carriage, and directed the officers to Osceola. That afternoon they returned with the two Smiths as prisoners. They were taken back to Carthage, confined in jail to await trial, and on the night of June 27, 1844, the two brothers were assassinated. The death of Joseph Smith left the Mormon Church in a disorganized condition for a time, but a new prophet was chosen and the Mormons took up their march for Utah, where they founded Salt Lake City. It is not certain why the fugitives were inquiring for Osceola, though it may have been that they expected to find friends there who would keep them concealed until it would be safe for them to leave the country. If such a "friend" dwelt at Osceola he kept his own counsel and nobody ever found out his identity.

#### A POLITICAL ECHO

About a year after the beginning of the Civil war an organization of Southern sympathizers grew up in the North. This society, or secret order, was known by various names, such as "Knights of the Golden Circle," "Sons of Liberty," etc. Along the Ohio River, in Southern Illinois and Indiana, the order flourished, but farther north its members were not so numerous. In September, 1876, a writer in the Chicago Tribune gave what purported to be a history of this

organization. According to his account the Sons of Liberty in Illinois had a well concerted plan to capture Camp Douglas in November, 1864, release and arm the Confederate prisoners confined there, and "carry the war into the enemy's country." The writer named several prominent men of Illinois who were interested in the above plan, among them being Martin Shallenberger, of Toulon. As a plain matter of fact, the writer of that so-called history of the Knights of the Golden Circle had evidently not made a very thorough investigation of the facts, for none of the men he mentioned entertained any idea of such action. It was but an echo of days when sectional and political feeling ran high, when neighbor was arrayed against neighbor, and rumor as to the treasonable inclinations of this or that individual was prevalent all over the North.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### STATISTICAL REVIEW

POPULATION AT EACH UNITED STATES CENSUS—CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS—CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS—GENERAL ASSEMBLY—HOW STARK HAS BEEN REPRESENTED IN THE LEGISLATURE—OFFICIAL ROSTER—LIST OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS SINCE 1839—VOTE FOR PRESIDENT AT EACH ELECTION SINCE 1840—SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE COUNTY'S HISTORY.

Illinois was organized as a territory under the laws of the United States in 1809, and December 3, 1918, will witness the close of her first century of statehood. Since the organization of the territory, the growth in population, according to the United States census reports, is shown in the following table:

1810 .....	12,282
1820 .....	55,162
1830 .....	157,445
1840 .....	476,183
1850 .....	851,470
1860 .....	1,711,951
1870 .....	2,539,891
1880 .....	3,077,871
1890 .....	3,826,351
1900 .....	4,821,550
1910 .....	5,638,591

Four score and six years have passed since Isaac B. Essex built his humble cabin about three miles southwest of the present City of Wyoming, and thus established the first white man's domicile within the confines of what is now Stark County, and more than three-quarters of a century have elapsed since the county was organized under the provisions of the act of the Illinois Legislature, approved on March 2, 1839. The first United States census taken after the county

was organized was in 1840. Since that time the growth in population has been as follows:

1840 .....	1,573
1850 .....	3,710
1860 .....	9,004
1870 .....	10,751
1880 .....	11,209
1890 .....	9,982
1900 .....	10,186
1910 .....	10,098

From this table it will be seen that the greatest proportionate increase in any one decade was from 1840 to 1850, when the growth in the number of inhabitants was from 1,573 to 3,710, or nearly three-fold. Twice in the history of the county there has been a decline during a census decade—once from 1880 to 1890 and again from 1900 to 1910. The decrease in population during these periods is due chiefly to the opening of new government lands in other parts of the country, which offered inducements to men of moderate means to acquire homes and farms of their own with a less outlay of capital. Just as between the years 1840 and 1860, when land was cheap in Illinois, other states contributed to her growth, so she in turn contributed to the growth of other sections of the country that presented such opportunities as were found here in Stark County during the twenty years immediately preceding the Civil war. The decrease in population between the years 1900 and 1910 affected all parts of the county about alike, as may be seen by a comparison of the last three official census reports, given by townships, to-wit:

Township	1890	1900	1910
Elmira .....	884	893	841
Essex .....	1,210	1,188	1,131
Goshen .....	1,017	1,212	1,145
Osceola .....	1,484	1,663	1,577
Penn .....	1,022	998	931
Toulon .....	2,579	2,553	2,834
Valley .....	810	788	821
West Jersey .....	976	891	818
<hr/>			
Total .....	9,982	10,186	10,098

The people of Stark County have no cause for humiliation in the decrease in the number of inhabitants. Fifty counties in the state showed a decrease between the years 1900 and 1910 and in some of them the decrease was two thousand or more. In the counties in which large cities are located the census shows an increase, evidence that in recent years there is a tendency among the people to crowd into the cities, and in Stark County the cities of Toulon and Wyoming both show an increase in the number of inhabitants during the census period. Notwithstanding the falling off in population, the wealth of the county has not decreased, the taxable value of the property and the agricultural products for the year 1914 showing that in these respects Stark County has more than held her own.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

The first constitution of Illinois—the one under which the state was admitted in 1818—was adopted twenty-one years before Stark County was organized. It remained the organic law of the state until a second constitutional convention was ordered by the Legislature in 1847. In that convention the district composed of Stark and Marshall counties was represented by Henry D. Palmer. The convention assembled at Springfield on June 7, 1847, and remained in session until the last day of August. The constitution was ratified by the people at an election on March 6, 1848, the vote in Stark County being 233 to 84 in favor of the new constitution, which became effective on April 1, 1848.

Another constitutional convention met at Springfield on January 7, 1862, and completed its labors on the 24th of March following. Peoria and Stark counties formed a district, which was represented in the convention by Julius Manning and Norman H. Purple. The constitution framed by this convention was rejected by the people at an election held on June 17, 1862. In Stark County the vote was 993 for rejection to 485 for ratification.

The present constitution of the state was adopted by a convention which assembled at Springfield on December 13, 1869, and adjourned sine die on May 13, 1870. For this convention the state was divided into sixty-one districts, from which eighty-five delegates were chosen. The counties of Peoria and Stark again formed a delegate district, which was represented by Henry W. Wells and Miles A. Fuller. The constitution was ratified by the people on July 2, 1870, and became effective on the 8th of August following. Stark County cast 609 votes in favor of the constitution and only 65 in the negative.

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

When Stark County was created in 1839 the State of Illinois was divided into three Congressional districts. Putnam County, from which the greater part of Stark was taken, was one of twenty-two counties comprising the Third District, consequently Stark became a part of that district and remained so until the apportionment under the act of March 1, 1843, when the state was divided into seven districts.

Under this apportionment Stark, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Carroll, Ogle, Lee, Whiteside, Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Henderson, Warren, Knox, McDonough and Hancock constituted the Sixth District.

The census of 1850 showed that the state was entitled to nine representatives in Congress, and by the act of August 22, 1852, the Legislature apportioned or divided Illinois into nine districts. The Fourth District was composed of Fulton, Henry, Knox, Marshall, Mason, Mercer, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Warren and Woodford.

By the act of April 24, 1861, the state was divided into thirteen districts, Stark becoming a part of the Fifth, which was composed of Bureau, Henry, Knox, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam and Stark. It was afterward discovered that the census of 1860 entitled the state to fourteen representatives and the error in the apportionment act was corrected by electing one congressman from the state at large.

The census of 1870 showed that Illinois was entitled to nineteen congressmen. By the act of July 1, 1872, nineteen districts were created, the first election under the new apportionment occurring in November of that year. The Ninth District under this act consisted of the counties of Fulton, Knox, Peoria and Stark.

Another representative was added by the census of 1880 and on April 29, 1882, the Illinois Legislature passed an act dividing the state into twenty districts. No change was made in the boundaries of the district in which Stark was situated, but the number was changed to the Tenth instead of the Ninth.

Twenty-two congressmen were given to Illinois by the census of 1890 and the state was accordingly divided into twenty-two districts by the act of June 9, 1893. Under this apportionment the Tenth District was made to consist of the counties of Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island, Stark and Woodford. The first election was in November, 1894.

The last and present apportionment was made by the act of May 13, 1901, when twenty-five districts were established. This appor-

tionment places Stark in the Sixteenth District, along with Bureau, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam and Tazewell. The census of 1910 gave the state twenty-seven congressmen and in 1912 two members were elected from the state at large.

#### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In the Eleventh General Assembly, which passed the act creating the County of Stark, William H. Henderson was a member of the lower house and is accredited to Bureau County in the official records, though his home was within the limits of Stark. Colonel Henderson was also elected to the Twelfth General Assembly in 1840 and in this session was accredited to Putnam County.

Section 6, Article 3, of the constitution of 1848 provided that "The Senate shall consist of twenty-five members, and the House of Representatives of seventy-five members, until the population of the state shall amount to 1,000,000 of souls, when five members may be added to the house and five additional members for every 500,000 inhabitants thereafter, until the whole number of representatives shall amount to 100; after which, the number shall neither be increased nor diminished; to be apportioned among the several counties according to the number of white inhabitants. In all future apportionments, where more than one county shall be thrown into a representative district, all the representatives to which said counties may be entitled shall be elected by the entire district."

Section 40 of the same article apportioned the representation in the General Assembly at twenty-five senators and seventy-five representatives, and another section provided that an apportionment should be made to become effective in 1855, and every tenth year thereafter. In the apportionment of 1848 the Nineteenth Senatorial District was composed of the counties of Henry, Mercer, Knox, Rock Island, Stark and Warren; and the Forty-third Representative District of the counties of Henry, Rock Island and Stark, which was entitled to one representative.

In the first session of the General Assembly under this apportionment, which convened at Springfield on January 1, 1849, John Denny, of Knox County, was senator, and John W. Henderson, of Stark, representative. From that time until the next apportionment, the district was represented as follows: 1850, John Denny, senator; James M. Allen, of Henry, representative; 1852, Benjamin Graham, of Henry, senator; William Marshall, of Rock Island, representative.

A new apportionment was made by the act of February 27, 1854,



under which representatives and senators were elected in the autumn of that year. No change was made in the Senatorial District, except that it was made the Ninth instead of the Nineteenth, but Peoria and Stark counties were made to constitute the Forty-first Representative District, which was given two members of the lower branch of the Legislature. During the life of this apportionment the district was represented as follows: 1855, Benjamin Graham, senator; Henry Grove, of Peoria, and Thomas J. Henderson, of Stark, representatives; 1857, Thomas J. Henderson, senator; Martin Shallenberger, of Stark, and John T. Lindsey, of Peoria, representatives; 1859, Thomas J. Henderson, senator; Myrtle G. Brace, of Stark, and Thomas C. Moore, of Peoria, representatives; 1861, Thomas J. Pickett, of Rock Island, senator; Elbridge G. Johnson, of Peoria, and Theodore F. Hurd, of Stark, representatives.

By the act of January 31, 1861, the state was divided into districts for twenty-five senators and eighty-five representatives. The Sixteenth Senatorial District was composed of the counties of Marshall, Peoria, Putnam and Stark, and the Thirty-sixth Representative District of Peoria and Stark counties. Under this apportionment the members from the districts were as follows:

Senators—John T. Lindsey, of Peoria, 1863; Greenbury L. Fort, of Marshall, 1867. Representatives—James Holgate, of Stark, and William W. O'Brien, of Peoria, 1863; Richard C. Dunn, of Stark, and Alexander McCoy, of Peoria, 1865; Sylvester F. Ottman, of Stark, and Thomas C. Moore, of Peoria, 1867; Bradford F. Thompson, of Stark, and William E. Phelps, of Peoria, 1869.

The constitution of 1870 provided that the governor and secretary of state should fix the apportionment for members of the General Assembly, under certain restrictions regarding population, etc. Only one session of the Legislature was held under this apportionment—that elected in the fall of 1870—in which the Sixteenth Senatorial District, composed of Marshall, Peoria, Putnam and Stark counties, was represented by Mark Bangs, of Marshall, and Lucien H. Kerr, of Peoria. Stark County alone constituted the Seventy-fourth Representative District, and was represented by Miles A. Fuller.

By the act of March 1, 1872, the state was divided into fifty-one districts, each of which was entitled to one senator and three representatives, the counties of Bureau and Stark constituting the Sixteenth District. During the ten years this apportionment lasted, the following members of the General Assembly were elected from this district:

Senators—Lorenzo D. Whiting, of Bureau, 1872—re-elected in 1876 and 1880. Representatives—1872, J. R. Mulvane and Mark R. Dewey, of Bureau; Cyrus Bocoek, of Stark; 1874, J. H. Moore and J. J. Herron, of Bureau; A. G. Hammond, of Stark; 1876, Charles Baldwin and J. J. Herron, of Bureau; Daniel J. Hurd, of Stark; 1878, Alfred G. Scott and Simon Elliott, of Bureau, Sylvester F. Ottman, of Stark; 1880, John H. Welsh and Charles Baldwin, of Bureau; Sylvester F. Ottman, of Stark.

Bureau, Putnam and Stark counties were placed in the Twenty-fifth District by the apportionment act of May 6, 1882, the district being entitled to one senator and three representatives. Members of the General Assembly under this apportionment were as follows:

Senators—Lorenzo D. Whiting, 1882; Edward A. Washburn, of Bureau, 1886; Louis Zearing, of Bureau, 1890. Representatives—1882, James T. Thornton, of Putnam; John H. Welsh, of Bureau; John Lackie, of Stark; 1884, Albert W. Boyden, of Bureau; Eli V. Raley, of Putnam; James H. Miller, of Stark; 1886, Sterling Pomeroy and Anthony Morrissey, of Bureau; James H. Miller of Stark; 1888, Anthony Morrissey and Peter McCall, of Bureau; James H. Miller, of Stark; 1890, Michael Barton, of Bureau; Archibald W. Hopkins, of Putnam, Samuel White, of Stark; 1892, Michael Barton, of Bureau; Archibald W. Hopkins, of Putnam; George Murray, of Stark.

A new apportionment was made by the act of June 15, 1893, which placed Bureau, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside counties in the Thirty-first District, with one senator and three representatives. Following is a list of the members of the General Assembly who served from this district under the apportionment of 1893:

Senators—1894, James W. Templeton, of Bureau, who was re-elected in 1898. Representatives—1894, William M. Pilgrim and George Murray, of Stark; J. W. White, of Whiteside; 1896, George Murray, of Stark; Jerry W. Dineen and Caleb C. Johnson, of Whiteside; 1898, Alfred N. Abbott, of Whiteside; Michael Kennedy, of Bureau; Archibald W. Hopkins, of Putnam; 1900, Allen P. Miller, of Stark; Alfred N. Abbott and Edward Devine, of Whiteside.

An apportionment act passed by the General Assembly and approved on January 11, 1898, was declared unconstitutional, so that the next legal apportionment was that made by the act of May 10, 1901, which is still the law regulating the membership of the Legislature. Under this act the counties of Bureau, Henry and Stark were erected into the Thirty-seventh District, with one senator and three

representatives. The list of members from this district includes the following:

Senators—James W. Templeton, of Bureau, 1902; B. Frank Baker, of Henry, 1906; Hugh S. Magill, of Bureau, 1910; C. C. Pervier, of Bureau, 1914. Representatives—1902, James E. Noyes, of Stark; James K. Blish and Nathaniel W. Tibbets, of Henry; 1904, James E. Noyes, of Stark; James E. Dabler, of Bureau; Nathaniel W. Tibbets, of Henry; 1906, Francis J. Liggett, of Stark; Clayton C. Pervier, of Bureau; William J. McGuire, of Henry; 1908, Francis J. Liggett, of Stark; Clayton C. Pervier, of Bureau; William J. McGuire, of Henry; 1910, Clayton C. Pervier, of Bureau; William J. McGuire and John R. Moore, of Henry; 1912, Randolph Boyd, of Henry; Clayton C. Pervier and Frank W. Morissey, of Bureau; 1914, Randolph Boyd and John R. Moore, of Henry; Frank W. Morissey, of Bureau.

#### OFFICIAL ROSTER

Following is a list of the county officials from the organization of the county in 1839 to the general election of 1914, with the year in which each was elected or assumed the duties of the office:

County Clerks—Oliver Whitaker, 1839; Thomas J. Henderson, 1847; Miles A. Fuller, 1853; Oliver Whitaker, 1869; David Walker, 1873; Joseph Chase, 1890; William W. Fuller, 1894; William E. Nixon, 1902.

Recorders—B. M. Jackson, 1839; J. W. Henderson, 1843; Samuel G. Butler, 1847. With the adoption of the constitution of 1848 the office of recorder was abolished, except in counties having a population of 60,000 or more, and the clerk of the Circuit Court was made ex-officio recorder in counties having less than that number of inhabitants.

Circuit Clerks—Oliver Whitaker, 1848; Jefferson Winn, 1852; Patrick M. Blair, 1860; John M. Brown, 1868; James Kinney, 1888; Joseph Chase, 1896; Elisha B. Redfield, 1904; Walter F. Young, 1912.

Sheriffs—Augustus A. Dunn, 1839; John Finley, 1840; John W. Henderson, 1844; John Finley, 1848; William F. Thomas, 1850; Clinton Fuller, 1852; Joseph Blanchard, 1854; Henry Breese, 1856; Oliver P. Emery, 1858; Elisha Greenfield, 1860; B. Frank Fuller, 1862; John M. Brown, 1864; Jesse Likens, 1866; S. M. Adams, 1868; C. F. Hamilton, 1878; Samuel M. Adams, 1880; Andrew Galbraith, 1882; James Montooth, 1886; William Hughes, 1890; Donald

Murchison, 1894; John P. Williams, 1898; Thomas J. Malone, 1902; Edwin G. Williamson, 1906; Thomas J. Malone, 1910; James K. Fuller, 1914.

Treasurers—Minott Silliman, 1839; Benjamin Turner, 1849; Davis Lowman, 1853; Hugh Rhodes, 1859; William Lowman, 1861; C. M. S. Lyons, 1863; R. J. Dickinson, 1865; Orlando Brace, 1873; John Hawks, 1886; Donald Murchison, 1890; Jasper N. Kitterman, 1894; Wilber P. Snare, 1898; Fred J. Rhodes, 1902; Charles W. Boeock, 1906; E. G. Williamson, 1910; Henry D. D. Martin, 1914.

Surveyors—Carson Berfield, 1839; Sylvester F. Ottman, 1853; William Nowlan, 1861; Henry H. Oliver, 1863; Edwin Butler, 1865; Manning A. Hall, 1879; Edwin Butler, 1884; Henry H. Oliver, 1888; Clement L. Cravens, 1902; William F. Nicholson, 1912.

Coroners—Adam Day, 1840; John Miller, 1844; Philip Anschutz, 1846; William Chamberlain, 1848; Minott Silliman, 1850; David McCance, 1852; Luther S. Milliken, 1854; Benjamin L. Hilliard, 1856; Jerome B. Thomas, 1860; Jeffrey A. Cooley, 1862; John F. Rhodes, 1864; John Finley, 1866; Thomas Hall, 1868; P. P. Johnson, 1870; William H. Butler, 1874; Wilson Trickle, 1876; W. B. Armstrong, 1878; John F. Rhodes, 1880; Charles W. Teeter, 1882; David S. Burroughs, 1884; Loyal T. Sprague, 1886; James G. Boardman, 1888; John N. Conger, 1900; James G. Boardman, 1904; J. C. Blaisdell, 1906; William L. Garrison, 1912.

Commissioners—Calvin Winslow, Jonathan Hodgson and Stephen Trickle, 1839; William Ogle, 1840; Brady Fowler, 1841; Jonathan Hodgson (elected to succeed himself), 1842; Lemuel S. Dorrance, 1843; Joseph Palmer, 1844; Jefferson Trickle, 1845; James Holgate, 1846; Thomas Lyle, 1847; Theodore F. Hurd, 1848.

The constitution of 1848 changed the form of county government by substituting a County Court, composed of a judge and two justices of the peace, for the board of commissioners. James Holgate was elected judge and the additional justices of the peace were William Ogle and James B. Lewis. The first session of this court was convened on December 3, 1849. The same officials continued in office until September, 1852, when John F. Thompson succeeded Mr. Lewis. By the adoption of township organization in 1853, the board of supervisors, consisting of one member from each township, took the place of the County Court, the last session of which was held on June 6, 1853, and the next day the first board of supervisors met in special session for the purpose of organizing. Following is a list of the supervisors since that time:

Elmira Township—Thomas Lyle, 1853; Myrtle G. Brace, 1854; Isaac Spencer, 1855; James Buswell, 1856; John Turnbull, 1858; James Buswell, 1861; Henry H. Oliver, 1862; Charles Stuart, 1863; Andrew Oliver, 1864; Matthew B. Parks, 1866; Lewis Austin, 1868; Charles P. Bussell, 1869; Thomas Oliver, 1871; Matthew B. Parks, 1874; Henry H. Oliver, 1877; Matthew B. Parks, 1880; Robert Armstrong, 1882; William Jackson, 1885; Andrew Oliver, 1886; William Jackson, 1887; George T. Oliver, 1894; George D. Boardman, 1906 (re-elected at each succeeding election to 1914).

Essex Township—Lemuel Dixon, 1853; Josiah Moffitt, 1855; Henry Colwell, 1857; John Chaffee, 1859; Jonathan Nicholas, 1862; William H. Butler, 1863; Edward Trickle, 1865; Sylvester F. Ottman, 1866; Hopkins Shivers, 1867; Philip F. Earhart, 1870; John H. Ogle, 1871; Timothy Bailey, 1874; Jacob Graves, 1875; Philip F. Earhart, 1877; James M. Rogers, 1878; William H. Graves, 1879; Philip F. Earhart, 1880; John Jordan, 1882; Philip F. Earhart, 1883; John Jordan, 1886; John H. Ogle, 1890; M. R. Cox, 1891; Lemuel Dixon, 1895; P. B. Colwell, 1905; S. B. Adams, 1913; W. L. Hagerty, 1914.

Goshen Township—Lewis H. Fitch, 1853; Henry Hayes, 1856; Theodore F. Hurd, 1858; Jacob Emery, 1861; Joseph Atherton, 1863; James H. Quinn, 1865; Julius Ives, 1870; D. J. Hurd, 1871; Julius Ives, 1872; D. J. Hurd, 1873; Harrison Miner, 1875; Joseph D. Rhodes, 1879; Luman P. Himes, 1880; J. S. Atherton, 1882; James H. Quinn, 1883; J. S. Atherton, 1884; John F. Rhodes, 1885; Harrison Miner, 1890; E. S. Buffum, 1891; J. H. Baker, 1893; W. F. Nicholson, 1903; Robert Fell, 1905; Edd Nowlan, 1913; David Carstairs, 1915.

Osceola Township—Bradford S. Foster, 1853; William W. Winslow, 1855; Isaac W. Searle, 1859; John Winslow, 1860; John Lackie, 1861; Bradford F. Thompson, 1866; John Lackie, 1867; Charles Wilson, 1868; Augustus L. Thompson, 1869; John Lackie, 1870; Philip Munson, 1872; John Lackie, 1874; John D. Hatfield, 1882; Mordecai Bevier, 1884; James Hall, 1887; Mordecai Bevier, 1889; William M. Pilgrim, 1890; Mordecai Bevier, 1894; Thomas F. Fate, 1896; Thomas Hickey, 1898; Mordecai Bevier, 1900; F. J. Liggett, 1902; J. H. Hall, 1908; H. P. Hopkins, 1910; J. M. Liggett, 1912; H. P. Hopkins, 1914.

Penn Township—James Holgate, 1853; Nathan Snare, 1854; Henry Breese, 1856; Milan B. Little, 1857; Benjamin Bunnell, 1858; Nathan Snare, 1860; Samuel Crum, 1862; Samuel G. Avery, 1863;

Nathan Dewning, 1864; John Snare, 1865; John Ackley, 1866; Cyrus Bocoek, 1868; G. W. Brown, 1872; Robert McBocoek, 1874; James Snare, 1886; Cyrus Bocoek, 1887; William C. Redding, 1890; B. F. Gharrett, 1891; Zura Fuller, 1893; Weldon Reagan, 1896; Dominick Harty, 1897; C. W. Bocoek, 1903; Dominick Harty, 1907; A. A. Webber, 1909; Harry Barton, 1911 (re-elected at each succeeding election to 1915).

Toulon Township—Calvin L. Eastman, 1853; John Berfield, 1854; Amos P. Gill, 1855; John Berfield, 1856; George W. Dewey, 1859; Davis Lowman, 1860; John Murnan, 1862; Brady Fowler, 1863; Isaac Thomas, 1864; George W. Dewey, 1865; C. M. S. Lyon, 1868; Brady Fowler, 1869; C. M. S. Lyon, 1870; James Fraser, 1871; Jonathan Fowler, 1873; James Nowlan, 1875; William P. Caverly, 1879; Jonathan Fowler, 1881; William P. Caverly, 1882; John Fowler, 1883; William P. Caverly, 1884; John W. Smith, 1885; Samuel Burge, 1887; William P. Caverly, 1891; J. A. Klock, 1895; W. B. Ballentine, 1899; J. A. Klock, 1903; F. B. Nicholson, 1905 (re-elected at each succeeding election until 1915).

Valley Township—Charles C. Wilson, 1853; Jacob Speer, 1855; Charles C. Wilson, 1856; J. S. Hopkins, 1857; Simon Dixon, 1860; Henry M. Rogers, 1861; James M. Rogers, 1863; Nathaniel Smith, 1865; James M. Rogers, 1866; John Speer, 1868; Henry M. Rogers, 1869; John Jordan, 1875; Henry M. Rogers, 1876; Edward Colgan, 1877; John Speer, 1887; Edward Colgan, 1889; William Gill, 1895; Owen W. Hurd, 1896; James McCurdy, 1906; William Gorman, 1910; Grant Burdick, 1912; James McCurdy, 1914.

West Jersey Township—William W. Webster, 1853; C. M. S. Lyon, 1856; Sylvester H. Sanders, 1858; Ephraim Markley, 1859; C. M. S. Lyon, 1860; Aaron Schmuck, 1861; C. M. S. Lyon, 1862; Milton Atherton, 1863; Isaac L. Newman, 1864; Nelson Jones, 1865; Levi Eckley, 1868; Isaac L. Newman, 1869; Andrew J. Johnson, 1871; Daniel R. Gelvin, 1873; James McGinnis, 1876; Andrew J. Johnson, 1877; Isaac L. Newman, 1878; H. C. Hyde, 1880; George M. Hazen, 1881; Lewis C. Egbert, 1882; Philip Beamer, 1884; Lewis C. Egbert, 1885; John Hazen, 1886; Charles W. Terry, 1887; Lewis C. Egbert, 1888; Carlton Rice, 1889; Thomas J. Dryden, 1892; L. A. Kameron, 1912; F. V. Addis, 1914.

#### PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Following is the vote of Stark County for President and Vice President from its organization to 1912, inclusive. In the table the



whig and republican candidates are first given, followed by the democratic candidates, and in a few important instances third party candidates are given as indicated in parentheses:

1840—Harrison and Tyler.....	187
Van Buren and Johnson.....	154
1844—Clay and Frelinghuysen.....	187
Polk and Dallas.....	206
1848—Taylor and Fillmore.....	214
Cass and Butler.....	174
Van Buren and Dodge (Free Soil).....	84
1852—Scott and Graham.....	336
Pierce and King.....	350
Hale and Julian (Free Soil).....	82
1856—Fremont and Dayton.....	718
Buchanan and Breckenridge.....	352
Fillmore and Donelson (American).....	152
1860—Lincoln and Hamlin.....	1,164
Douglas and Johnson.....	659
Breckenridge and Lane (Dem.).....	1
Bell and Everett (American).....	23
1864—Lincoln and Johnson.....	1,174
McClellan and Pendleton.....	613
1868—Grant and Colfax.....	1,394
Seymour and Blair.....	705
1872—Grant and Wilson.....	1,218
Greeley and Brown.....	606
1876—Hayes and Wheeler.....	1,440
Tilden and Hendriks.....	786
1880—Garfield and Arthur.....	1,383
Hancock and English.....	681
1884—Blaine and Logan.....	1,365
Cleveland and Hendriks.....	784
1888—Harrison and Morton.....	1,359
Cleveland and Thurman.....	826
1892—Harrison and Reid.....	1,240
Cleveland and Stevenson.....	824
1896—McKinley and Hobart.....	1,636
Bryan and Sewall.....	1,020
Palmer and Buckner (Gold Dem.).....	17
1900—McKinley and Roosevelt.....	1,665
Bryan and Stevenson.....	939



1904—Roosevelt and Fairbanks.....	1,764
Parker and Davis.....	574
1908—Taft and Sherman.....	1,635
Bryan and Kern.....	738
1912—Taft and Sherman.....	549
Wilson and Marshall.....	669
Roosevelt and Johnson (Progressive)....	1,053
Chaffin and Watkins (Prohi.).....	25
Debs and Seidel (Socialist).....	41

## CHRONOLOGY

In the foregoing chapters a conscientious effort has been made to give an authentic and comprehensive account of the progress of Stark County along industrial, educational, professional and religious lines, as well as her part in the military affairs of the nation when treason sought to disrupt the Union. As a conclusion to this work it is deemed appropriate to give a list of the principal events leading up to the settlement and organization of the county, together with those that have some bearing upon its more recent history. At first glance, some of these events may seem to be only remotely connected with the county's story, but it must be remembered that every political subdivision is but the product of an evolution, its origin often being found in some incident that happened many years before, and perhaps in some distant state, or even a foreign country. Hence each event in the following list wielded its influence in shaping the destinies of Stark County.

—, 1671. Nicholas Perrot, the French explorer, visits the region about the sources of the Illinois River.

—, 1672. Fathers Allouez and Dablon, Jesuit missionaries, visit some of the Indian tribes in the Illinois country.

—, 1673. Father Marquette passes up the Illinois and Des-plaines rivers on his return from exploring the Mississippi River.

January 3, 1680. La Salle reaches Lake Peoria on his first attempt to find the mouth of the Mississippi.

April 9, 1682. La Salle reaches the mouth of the Mississippi and claims all the country drained by the great river and its tributaries for France under the name of "Louisiana." Under this claim the present State of Illinois became a French possession.

—, 1712. Antoine Crozat granted the exclusive trade with Louisiana by the French Government. He was succeeded by the Western Company in 1717.

—, 1718. French settlements made at Kaskaskia and Fort Chartres under the auspices of the Western Company.

April 10, 1732. The Western Company surrenders its charter and "Louisiana" (including Illinois) again became a crown province.

February 10, 1763. French and Indian war concluded by the Treaty of Paris. All that part of Louisiana lying east of the Mississippi, except the Isle of Orleans, ceded to Great Britain and Illinois thus becomes an English possession.

December 30, 1764. Gen. Thomas Gage issues a proclamation providing for the safe removal of all French subjects who were unwilling to become subjects of the British crown.

October 10, 1765. Fort Chartres occupied by a detachment of British soldiers.

—, 1778. The British posts of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Fort Chartres in Illinois, and Vincennes, Indiana, surrender to Gen. George Rogers Clark.

October, 1778. The County of Illinois established by the Virginia Legislature, that colony claiming the territory conquered by General Clark.

December 12, 1778. John Todd, the lieutenant commander for Illinois County appointed by Governor Patrick Henry, arrives at Kaskaskia.

September 3, 1783. The Revolutionary war concluded by the Treaty of Paris, which fixed the western boundary of the United States at the Mississippi River. Illinois thus became a part of the territory of the new republic.

August 3, 1795. Treaty with several Indian tribes negotiated at Greenville, Ohio. A square mile of land where Chicago now stands, another square mile at the foot of Peoria Lake, and two square miles at the mouth of the Illinois River set apart as Indian reservations.

May, 1800. Indiana Territory, including the present State of Illinois, established and Gen. William H. Harrison appointed governor.

August 13, 1803. A treaty negotiated at Vincennes with the Kaskaskia Indians and the remnants of other Illinois tribes, by which those Indians ceded all their lands except 350 acres to the United States.

November 3, 1804. A treaty concluded with the Sac and Foxes at St. Louis, providing for the cession to the United States of all the lands claimed by those tribes bounded by the Mississippi, Wisconsin, Fox and Illinois rivers.

February 3, 1809. Territory of Illinois established by an act of Congress and Ninian Edwards appointed governor.

—, 1814. Fort Clark built about where the City of Peoria now stands. A French trading post had been in existence here for many years. The fort was burned in 1818.

May 13, 1816. Treaty of St. Louis, by which the Sacs and Foxes confirm the conditions of the treaty of November 3, 1804.

April 18, 1818. Congress passes an act authorizing the people of Illinois to hold a constitutional convention.

October 5, 1818. The state government organized at Kaskaskia.

December 3, 1818. Illinois admitted to the Union as a state.

—, 1825. Organization of Putnam County, which included the greater portion of the present County of Stark.

April, 1829. Isaac B. Essex, the first white man to settle in Stark County, built his cabin about two and a half miles southwest of the present City of Wyoming.

—, 1831. Rev. Jesse Hale sent to the military tract as a missionary to the Indians.

August 2, 1832. Last battle of the Black Hawk war, in which the Indians were signally defeated.

September 26, 1833. Treaty with the Pottawatomi Indians at Chicago. By this treaty the Indian title to the lands in Stark County was extinguished and the country opened to settlement.

—, 1833. A weekly mail route established from Springfield via Peoria to Galena. This route passed through Stark County and the first postoffice was established, with Isaac B. Essex as postmaster.

July 4, 1834. The first schoolhouse in Stark County raised in what is now Essex Township.

October 3, 1838. Death of Black Hawk, the celebrated Sac chief, in Iowa.

March 2, 1839. Act organizing the County of Stark approved.

April 1, 1839. First election in Stark County held at the house of Elijah McClenahan.

April 4, 1839. First meeting of the board of county commissioners.

October 11, 1839. First session of the Circuit Court convenes at the house of William Henderson. In this year the capital of the state was removed from Vandalia to Springfield.

November 2, 1840. First presidential election after the organization of Stark County. Harrison and Tyler carry the county by a plurality of thirty-three votes.

February 27, 1841. Act of the Legislature naming commissioners to locate the county seat of Stark.

May 17, 1841. The commissioners appointed to select the site for the county seat selected the present site of Toulon.

July 28, 1841. John Miller and his wife deed the county seat site to the county commissioners.

—, 1842. First courthouse built by Abel Mott.

—, 1848. Illinois adopts a new constitution.

December 3, 1849. First session of the County Court, which took the place of the commissioners under the new constitution.

October 20, 1850. First Masonic lodge in the county organized at Toulon.

November 8, 1851. Stark Lodge, No. 96, Independent Order of Odd Fellows organized at Toulon—the first Odd Fellows' lodge in the county.

November 2, 1852. Township organization carried at the general election by a vote of 443 to 173.

June 6, 1853. Last session of the County Court.

June 7, 1853. First session of the board of supervisors. In the fall of this year the first Illinois state fair was held at Springfield.

October 29, 1853. Stark County Agricultural Society organized. Hugh Rhodes the first president.

September, 1855. Ground broken near Toulon for the Western Air Line Railroad. Event celebrated by a big dinner, speeches, etc.

January 4, 1856. The Prairie Advocate, the first newspaper published in Stark County, issued at Toulon by John G. Hewitt and John Smith. In this year the present courthouse was completed.

April 15, 1861. Big "war meeting" at Toulon.

April 25, 1861. First volunteers from Stark County mustered into the United States service as Company B, Seventh Illinois Infantry, with Hugh J. Cosgrove as captain.

May 25, 1865. Meeting held at Toulon to rejoice over the return of peace.

July 8, 1871. First regular passenger train arrives at Toulon on the Peoria & Rock Island Railroad.

December 13, 1878. Stark County Old Settlers' Association organized at Toulon.

April 19, 1898. Wyoming incorporated as a city. S. R. Perkins elected the first mayor.

June 12, 1902. Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument erected by the county, dedicated at Toulon. In the fall of this year the Chicago &

Northwestern Railroad was completed through the eastern part of the county.

April 20, 1909. Toulon incorporated as a city under the general laws of Illinois. George Nowlan elected the first mayor.

April 1, 1915. Carnegie Library at Wyoming opened to the public.

September 7, 1915. Toulon Public Library opened.

October 28, 1915. Part of Stark County placed under quarantine on account of the "foot and mouth disease." Several hundred head of cattle, hogs and sheep killed on the 30th.

#### POSTSCRIPT—IN LIEU OF A PREFACE

To write of the good and true; to preserve a record of the deeds and achievements of the past; to keep green the memory of those who played in the great drama of life before we came upon the stage of action; to chronicle the doings of our ancestors, that we may emulate their examples and profit by their mistakes, is a duty that every individual owes to a common humanity. And to those in the ordinary walks of life—the real builders of state and nation—the history of their own people conveys a greater lesson than a knowledge of the Punie wars, the accomplishments of Alexander the Great, or the victories and defeats of Napoleon.

In bidding the reader good-bye, the editor and publishers of this History of Stark County and its People desire to say that no effort has been spared to give to the people of the county a history that is at once authentic and comprehensive—authentic, because so far as possible official records have been used as a source of information, and comprehensive, because, it is believed, no important event connected with the county's history has been omitted.

The work has been one involving great care and labor and much of the credit is due to old residents for their ready and willing cooperation in the collection of data regarding events of by-gone years.

The division of the history into topics is, we believe, the best that could have been made, and an arrangement that the reader will find at once logical and convenient.

In conclusion, the editor and his assistants desire to take this opportunity to express their obligations to the various county officials and numerous citizens for their assistance while the work was in preparation, and especially to thank the librarians of the public libraries at Lafayette, Toulon and Wyoming for their uniform courtesies on all occasions.















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